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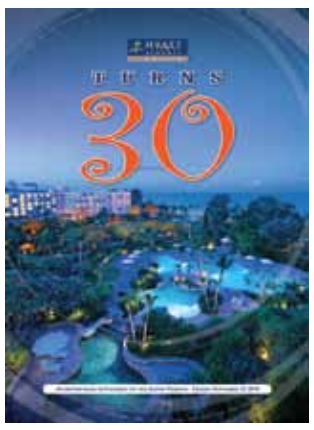
OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the proposal to legalize the use of marijuana in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Hyatt Turns 30

Hyatt Regency Saipan tallies up yet another extraordinary milestone with its 30th year of operations in the CNMI. To celebrate the occasion, the Saipan Tribune comes out today with a special supplement that highlights this impressive feat.



Step Aside

A growing number of the rank and file Democrats say they won't support Pelosi.

NATION...Page 22

CMA Awards

Brad Paisley crash the festivities at the Country Music Association Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 28

CNMI community honors veterans

"Today, we honor all our nation's veterans, past and present, for their unyielding dedication and sacrifice."

—Capt. Ulysses Zalamea



Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School students hand personally made "thank you" cards to visiting U.S. Navy officers and veterans at the Veterans Day ceremony held at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor in Garapan yesterday. Inset shows Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan placing a wreath, while Lt. Commander Felton Gilmore, left, of the U.S. Coast Guard, and executive assistant for military and veterans affairs Ruth Coleman look on. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

More photos on Page 18

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With over a thousand veterans and hundreds on active duty in the CNMI, Capt. Ulysses Zalamea said the Commonwealth is especially aware of the sacrifices of military men and women for their courage and selfless service to the country.

RELATED NEWS

SDA School students make 'thank you' cards for veterans. **PAGE 6**

"These heroes include CNMI's sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers. Their gallantry and courage have inspired us all. And through their sacrifice and dedication, our nation has been strengthened and renewed," said Zalamea during the Veterans Day ceremony yesterday at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor in Garapan.

Zalamea, chief of staff to the Commander of the Joint Region Marianas,

See VETERANS on Page 4



FEC cites Babauta campaign



Babauta

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Committee to Elect Juan N. Babauta for Congress was among the 34 campaign committees that the Federal Election Commission cited for failure to file 12-day pre-general financial

See BABAUTA on Page 4

Contaminated water sickens CHC patients, staff

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A number of employees and patients at the Commonwealth Health Center were stricken with diarrhea last week after drinking contaminated water from the hospital's water dispensers.

John Tagabuel, deputy secretary for Public Health, confirmed the spate of diarrhea cases at the hospital during Wednesday's press briefing.

"Yes, there were complaints raised by some staff and patients in the hospital so we invited the Division of Environmental Quality to test our water samples," he said.

He said that laboratory test results indicated that four to six water dispensers were positive for coliform, with very minimal chlorine.

Tagabuel assured, though, that there were no serious cases or complica-

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21 to become US citizens in today's naturalization ceremony. PAGE 3

'A year since federalization and we're still in limbo' PAGE 5



Local

Five named PSS central office employees of the year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System's central office has named Julita S. Enriquez, Probio Cabrera, Vilma Castro, Bernice Diaz, and Steve Smith as its outstanding personnel of the year.

2010 EDUCATION NOMINEES

The first three are recipients of the administrative staff of the year awards, while the latter two were recognized as program managers of the year.

Enriquez, who started work with the Capitol Improvement Project program in 2006 as an administrative officer, has shown dedication to the program with her outstanding and consistent level of performance.

She has demonstrated leadership and initiative when given any task without guidance. Her contribution to the program is the organization of the department files and the development of a system to track payment applications, purchase orders, and project listing. She makes sure that the day-to-day duties are met in a timely manner.


Enriquez


Cabrera


Castro


Diaz


Smith

Cabrera, for his part, has been with PSS' Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment office since 1991. For more than 13 years, he has been the lone data management personnel. He is described as a very humble person, respectful, and courteous. He is also cooperative, supportive, and useful.

Castro has been working for Food Nutrition & Service Office since January 2008 and her service is invaluable to the overall performance of PSS. Castro provides and maintains the database for virtually every essential report delivered to the Federal Programs Office on a quarterly basis. She is very patient, sincere, and helpful.

Diaz, one of the program managers of the year, has been a loyal PSS employee for over 19 years as a financial analyst/assistant budget officer at the Fiscal and Budget Office. She has provided dependable, reliable, accurate, and timely services throughout her tenure at PSS. Through her sound work ethic and business morals, Diaz has earned the admiration and confidence of those she works with.

Diaz has the institutional memory and ability to perform at high levels of efficiency. She maintains extraordinary work hours every week so work can be processed in a timely manner and services can be delivered without delay. From forecasting the budget to helping out in payroll, travel, and accounts payable, Diaz is always there to assist in times of need. Her small stature is certainly no indication of the mountainous work she is capable of doing nor is it an indication of the immeasurable dedication and commitment she has to the Fiscal and Budget Office and the children of PSS.

As the language arts coordinator, Smith is the embodiment of the program manager of the year as he practically lives and breathes language arts. For many years, Smith has been actively involved in shaping the Language Arts curriculum through his work and through his ongoing participation in refining and improving the PSS Standards and Benchmarks for Language Arts. He has been at the forefront of formulating numerous scholastic organizations that have benefited many public and private school students such as the National Forensic League, Spelling Bee, and other activities too numerous to mention.

In addition to his full-time work at PSS and weekend Praxis, Smith somehow found the time to shoehorn in the attainment of several degrees and Praxis certifications. One cannot help but be impressed with his commitment to professional development as evidenced by his recent attainment of a master's degree in Psychology to add to the collection of degrees he has already earned, including a master's degree in Secondary Education, a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and associate degree in Liberal Studies. As exemplified by his steadfast dedication to the field of Language Arts and accomplishments at PSS and through his professional development and scholarly achievements, Smith truly deserves the recognition as program manager of the year.



3 suspects in fruit bat poaching case get reprieve for six months

The federal court has postponed for six months the jury trial of three persons who have been indicted on charges of poaching on a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett ordered that the jury trial of Adrian Mendiola, David Santos, and Albert Taitano be moved to May 9, 2011.

Trial was originally scheduled to begin on Monday, Nov. 15, 2010.

After several meetings with the parties' lawyers, Bennett said that, in the interest of justice, he finds it necessary and appropriate to postpone the trial.

The judge said the rescheduling is intended to accommodate preparation of and challenges to expert testimony, and to set a tentative date for a Daubert hearing on expert testimony.

A Daubert hearing refers to proceedings in which a trial judge will evaluate the admissibility of an expert, or scientific and technical, testimony and evidence.

Bennett said the Daubert hearing is tentatively scheduled to begin on March 15, 2011 and to continue, if necessary, on March 16, 2011.

The judge will preside over the hearing via video teleconference from Sioux City, Iowa.

Rota Customs Officer 3 Albert Taitano, Division of Fish of Wildlife staff David Santos, and retired police officer Adrian Mendiola have pleaded not guilty to an indictment that charged them with taking threatened species in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

According to the U.S. government, the alleged violations relate to poaching incidents in 2008 when two of the few remaining breeding colonies of the Mariana fruit bat were decimated by hunters using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns.

U.S. Attorney for Guam and NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco earlier stated that the Mariana fruit bat or fanihi is an important species not just to the islands' ecology but to the local island culture. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

21 to become US citizens in today's naturalization ceremony

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Twenty-one foreign nationals will take their oath and become U.S. citizens in a special naturalization ceremony to be held today at the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said yesterday that the special naturalization ceremony, set at 10am, honors the nation's veterans.

The new citizens are originally from Switzerland, the Philippines, China, Taiwan and South Korea.

"This ceremony is one of several taking place this week across the United States honoring the service of the men and women that have served in the military. Each year, our country recognizes November 11 as 'Veterans Day' to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate all those who have served," USCIS public affairs officer Mariana Gitomer said in a statement.

USCIS officers oversee the naturalization process and provide members of the military and their families with every opportunity to receive expedited citizenship regardless of where they serve.

"Our support to the armed forces resulted in more than 11,100 non-citizens serving in the military realizing their dream of U.S. citizenship last fiscal year—the largest number in any year since 1955," Gitomer said.

This number is a 6-percent increase from the 10,505 naturalizations in fiscal year 2009 and a significant increase from the 7,865 naturalizations in fiscal year 2008.

Since September 2001, USCIS has naturalized nearly 65,000 service men and women, including those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The special naturalization ceremony on Saipan comes almost a year after the federal government took control of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

USCIS is under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the lead agency implementing the federalization process.

OPA says probe into alleged election violations ongoing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Office of Public Auditor will continue to investigate alleged irregularities that were reported during the recent election, more than a week after the Nov. 2 congressional polls.

"The only thing we can tell you is that OPA is investigating some complaints related to the election," Public Auditor Michael Pai told *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday.

However, he said his office cannot comment on any open investigation. "They are open investigations that we cannot comment on," he added.

Pai also refused to disclose how many election-related cases his office is looking at.

Besides OPA, other agencies such as Office of the Attorney General and the Federal Election Commission were urged to probe potential violations of the election law.

Just a few days after the start of the early voting period on Oct. 22, complaints were filed with these agencies involving election fraud. Complaints include potential violations of the early voting requirements after over a thousand people voted early.

Independent candidate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, who won his re-election bid, also complaint against negative advertisements in newspapers, while Democratic Party candidate Jesus Borja asked both the OAG and the Election Commission to probe other election-related concerns.

The distribution of gas coupons by the committee to elect Covenant Party contender Joseph Norita Camacho was also brought into questions by concerned citizens.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from the OAG on the status of these complaints but it has yet to respond as of press time.

Sablan won by a wide margin in the four-way congressional race on Nov. 2. Besides Camacho and Borja, the other candidate in the race was former governor Juan N. Babauta.









Cop seeks to be reimbursed for suing DPS

Police Sergeant James C. Deleon Guerrero has asked the Superior Court to allow him to recover attorney's fees and court costs he incurred to sue the Department of Public Safety for alleged bias in its promotion and hiring practices.

DPS, through the Office of the Attorney General, said Deleon Guerrero and the 26 other officers who joined in the lawsuit are not entitled to such costs under the bad faith theory or other theory.

Robert T. Torres, lawyer for Deleon Guerrero, said the government forced Deleon Guerrero to spend attorney's fees and costs, to schedule depositions, to put together exhibits, and to gather the testimony of witnesses before it deigned to take any remedial action—"which action remains still unclear to this day."

In a motion for summary judgment, Torres said in promoting personnel without regard to and in violation of well-recognized competitive procedures, DPS violated the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations and the Civil Service Act.

"DPS, however, shows no signs of ending these unlawful practices on its own," the lawyer said.

Torres said for the benefit of the DPS and all officers, Deleon Guerrero brought the court action to challenge DPS procedures.

"Sgt. Deleon Guerrero's courage and determination to correct the patent injustices benefited not only himself as a taxpayer and a DPS employee, but all those who work for the government and have come to expect and rely on some modicum of fairness and fair platy," Torres said.

In the DPS' opposition, assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel Shearer said it is beyond reasonable comprehension to understand how Deleon Guerrero could be forced to retain an attorney.

"The act of retaining an attorney is a voluntary act just as bringing a lawsuit is a voluntary action," she said.

She said Deleon Guerrero and co-plaintiffs cannot show wantonness and bad faith on the part of DPS. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



D&Q DONATION
On Nov. 9, 2010, D&Q Saipan Co. donated approximately 17 cases of grocery items to the Saipan branch of the Salvation Army. The items are intended to assist in their program helping the homeless families of Saipan. In the picture, Saipan manager for D&Q, Max Kretzers is pictured presenting the items to Ed Arriola Jr., a Salvation Army advisory board member.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam governor relieves prison chief

» GPD to conduct investigation of alleged violations

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho relieved Department of Corrections director J.B. Palacios of his duties Wednesday and assigned Lt. Antone Aguon as acting director for the department.

"I have asked the acting director to immediately review all programs pending an investigation and reevaluation of policy and procedures," said Camacho. "All inmates involved in any alleged misconduct will be investigated for criminal activity and administrative violations."

Aguon immediately placed prison superintendent Francisco B. Crisostomo and the operations commander on administrative leave pending the outcome of an internal and criminal investigation regarding possible security violations and criminal activities.

The move came about after Sen. Adolpho Palacios, chairman of the legislative public safety committee and brother of the prisons chief, questioned a year-old video footage of inmates barbecuing at the Mangilao facility.

J.B. Palacios had earlier explained that the barbecue was an authorized event and the video was taken by an inmate using a laptop that was also authorized for use.

The Guam Police Department Chief has already assigned officers to conduct an investigation of the alleged incidences. As a result of DOC's critical condition, all DOC manpower resources that have been assigned to other agencies and sections outside the Mangilao facility will be returned to support security operations.

"I expect the acting DOC director to take appropriate steps to ensure the security of the facility and maintain law and order. This will include but not be limited to reassigning key managers and supervisors, reassigning line personnel, and establishing polices to ensure safety and security," said Camacho.

A report of DOC's condition, the alleged violations, and specific recommendation shall be forwarded to the Governor's Office within the next 30 days. ***(PR)***

BABAUTA

From Page 1

reports related to the Nov. 2 elections.

Babauta, a former governor of the Republican Party, was among the four candidates in the Nov. 2 elections for a CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Incumbent Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan won the race in a landslide victory.

The reports were due on Oct. 21, and should have included financial activity for the period Oct. 1 through 13.

Saipan Tribune learned that Babauta's camp failed to file on time because the person who used to take care of financial reporting is no longer around, and it took time for others from the camp to finish the job.

As a result of non-filing, Babauta was listed on the FEC website as the one who raised and spent the least among the four delegate candidates. As of July 15, he raised $24,159 and spent $21,566.

The three others raised between $29,794 and $83,728 through Oct. 13. Sablan raised and spent the most.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as revised, requires filing of a 12-day pre-general election report.

The FEC notified committees involved in the general election of their filing requirement on Sept. 27. Those committees that did not file on the due date were sent notification on Oct. 22 that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published if they did not respond within four business days.

Another financial report is soon due, this time including expenses right before the Nov. 12 election.

The FEC is an independent regulatory agency that administers and enforces federal campaign finance laws.

CONTAMINATED

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tions from the incident.

As soon as the findings were submitted to the department, Tagabuel said all water dispensers—both at the hospital site and the administrative offices—were removed, replaced, and sanitized.

He said their water vendor, JG Sablan, replaced and sanitized all its dispensers while those owned by the department were sanitized by DPH staff.

"One of our biggest problems was sanitizing because we didn't have that in place…but we already corrected it [now]," he said.

Tagabuel said this was the first instance of water contamination recorded at the hospital. "To my knowledge, this is the first time in the hospital."

Tagabuel, along with other health officials present in Wednesday's briefing, assured that the problem has already been addressed.

In January this year, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services conducted a complaint investigation survey at the Commonwealth Health Center and uncovered serious deficiencies. Medicare warned the hospital that noncompliance with standards would result in the termination of its accreditation with Medicare, disqualifying the CHC from federal reimbursements.

DPH gets $8 million to $10 million in Medicare reimbursements annually.

Last month, a Medicare team resurveyed the hospital to validate the progress report CHC officials submitted in May. A decision is expected to be issued anytime soon.

VETERANS

From Page 1

was the event's keynote speaker.

Lt. Commander Felton Gilmore of the Chief of Prevention of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam was the guest speaker. Gilmore, who talked about the long relationship of the Coast Guard with the CNMI, represented Capt. Thomas McK. Sparks.

Some 300 veterans, service members, dignitaries, families and other guests attended yesterday's celebration honoring U.S. veterans, heroes all who have fought to preserve the nation's freedom.

Zalamea said the U.S. has reverently reflected upon those who unselfishly defend the country "since the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918," a period in history called the Armistice, or the end of World War I.

He said this annual contemplation shows the deep gratitude of citizens for all those serving in the five branches of the U.S. military: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

"Today, we show our respect to our loved ones, our friends who did not return home. Today, we say thank you to those who currently serve our country. Today, we honor all our nation's veterans, past and present, for their unyielding dedication and sacrifice," he said.

According to Zalamea, people still continue to witness the same dedication that has helped preserve America in the toughest times.

"Whether in peace or at war, the important role of our veterans cannot be denied," he said, adding that all veterans share a love for this great nation.

Zalamea also quoted the message released by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus during his remarks.

"Our veterans represent the best of America. Coming from every background and every walk of life, they represent the rich tapestry of our nation and the multitude of cultures that make the United States unique upon the earth.

"On Veterans Day, we have an opportunity to thank them, to thank every Marine, sailor, soldier, airman and coast guardsmen who has ever worn the uniform for what they have done, and to thank those of you still in uniform for what you continue to do for the United States every day."

The CNMI currently has about 1,200 veterans and 400 active military personnel, according to Zalamea.

'Spirit of patriotism'

In his remarks, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the spirit of patriotism continues to live on in the CNMI and in the country.

"Now more than ever, the spirit of patriotism has spread to Americans of all ages," said Fitial, adding that patriotism is manifested by means of clothing, flag bumper stickers, and flags found outside people's houses.

Fitial said he is deeply honored to participate in a celebration of people "who share the same love, respect, and honor for all our veterans."

"We would not be free today without our military veterans and those who continue to serve and defend the principles of liberty," he said.

The governor asserted that the community must continue to respect and honor veterans, saying the best way to do so is "to actively participate in maintaining freedom in America" and teach the future generations about the importance of living in the "land of the free."

"Without our veterans, we wouldn't be where we are today. Without you, we won't be able to reach where we could be tomorrow," said Fitial.

Veterans' recognition

Yesterday's ceremony also served as an opportunity to recognize specific veterans in the CNMI for their valuable service and contribution to the military and the community.

The veterans who were recognized were Ret. Sgt. Maj. Frank Cepeda, CNMI Veterans Association president; 94-year-old Kenneth K. Kubo, World War II veteran; Robert "Uncle Woody" Woodruff of the U.S. Marine Corps; American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh; and Commodore Herman T. K. Awai.

Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner led the presentation of certificates, plaques, a medallion, and military flags to the recognized veterans.

Program lineup

The Veterans Day celebration on Thursday saw the participation of different members of the community.

The Pacific Winds Concert Band provided music for the national and CNMI anthems as well as the playing of taps. Saipan Southern High School JROTC cadets posted and retired the colors. Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella of the Grace Christian Academy led the invocation.

Twenty-two students from the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School handed out handmade "thank you" cards to honor the veterans.

The recognition of veterans was followed by the laying of the wreath at the Court of Honor, which lists the names of the 5,204 veterans who gave their lives during the Battle of Saipan. The wreath-laying was led by Fitial, Zalamea, Gilmore, other veterans and service members.

A little past noon, the audience was treated to a B-52 flyover, courtesy of the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, 36th Wing out of Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

In her closing remarks, CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman said "Veterans Day is truly a day to celebrate."

"We celebrate our veterans who have served. We celebrate those who have supported our brothers and sisters who have served. And I extend my personal gratitude to each and every one of you, for remembering that those who serve do so not for glory, or power, or wealth, but for freedom, and that the simple recognition of service well performed—a sincere thank you—means more to most veterans than any other reward," she said.

‘A year since federalization and we’re still in limbo’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Almost a year since the federal government took control of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, the islands remain “in limbo” mainly because of the lack of regulations governing foreign investors and guest workers, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan separately said the CNMI “could be” better off a year since federalization, adding that the CNMI “needs to cooperate more fully with the federal government.”

Fitial, who sued the federal government last year over federalization, said the CNMI would have liked to encourage more foreign investments, especially during these tough economic times “but because of the lack of regulations, both for investors and workers, we’re still in limbo.”

“I’m still hopeful that the federal agencies responsible for implementing Public Law 110-229 would come together and implement the intent of 110-229 which is to help enhance the economy of the Commonwealth,” Fitial said in an interview at the Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park’s Court of Honor in Garapan yesterday.

Every single day that the regulations are not released to guide employers and workers means another day that investors can’t invest, businesses can’t expand or hire workers, and guest workers can’t decide whether to stay or leave.

This frustration is shared by all sectors of the CNMI.

Sablan, for his part, does not see the regulations being issued before the Nov. 29 anniversary of the implementation of federalization.

He and Fitial, however, believe the regulations will be issued before the November 2011 expiration of the CNMI Department of Labor-issued umbrella permits.

Sablan said he also looks forward to a permanent visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists.

Fitial said if these regulations were issued and implemented, “we will be in a better position to know where we are going.”

“Right now everything is in limbo,” he added.

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta on Tuesday said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is still working on the regulations.

‘No specific request yet’

Sablan, who was two seats away from Fitial at the Veterans Day ceremony yesterday, said the governor has not asked him or his office for any specific request.

But he said Fitial told him during the Office of Insular Affairs-sponsored forum on economic and labor development that “anything that OIA cannot provide in terms of technical assistance, they are going to turn to me and I will do my best to address those things.”

Sablan said he’s also “very happy” that Fitial and Babauta had a chance to talk “and let’s see where it leads.”

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Bridge Capital still pursuing video lottery and tourism for La Fiesta

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC is still pursuing video lottery and other tourism-related projects at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque, but the government has yet to award a contract to the only private firm that responded to a request for proposal for the mall revitalization project in March 2009.

“Negotiations are ongoing,” Bridge Capital chief executive officer John K. Baldwin said in an interview on Capital Hill Wednesday.

Baldwin said Bridge Capital is always looking for projects and investments in the CNMI. He said La Fiesta remains among these projects.

“The government has many ideas of what’s going to happen with La Fiesta. It’s an exciting piece of real estate and there are good things that can happen with it. But it has to really happen with an uptick in the tourist industry. You need more tourism to make people want to go to that location. And so the government has plans. We hope to be part of those plans if it makes business sense,” he said.

Baldwin said Bridge Capital and the government have talked about lottery terminals, restaurants, colleges and other educational programs that can be put at La Fiesta which, he said, “could be beautiful again.”

“We’ve talked about turning it into a Japanese education center. We’ve talked about turning it into a Chinese student exchange center. It takes a lot of people working together to make any of these things happen,” he said.

Bridge Capital is an international investment banking and asset management company headquartered on Saipan.

When asked if Bridge Capital is interested in buying The Palms Resort, which is across the road from the former La Fiesta Mall, Baldwin said they would be happy to look at it if it becomes for sale again.

“It’s really interesting. We were one of the initial bidders on The Palms when it was sold for the first time. We continually watch it. As far as I know, it’s not actually for sale right now, but if it ever comes for sale, we would be happy to look at it,” he said.

Bridge Capital bought interest on the La Fiesta property in March 2007.

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SDA School students make 'thank you' cards for veterans

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Twenty-two students from the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School made thank you cards that they handed out to veterans during the Veterans Day celebration yesterday at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor.

Capt. Ulysses Zalamea, chief of staff to the Commander of the Joint Region Marianas, served as keynote speaker for the event that was attended by about 300 veterans, service members, dignitaries, families and other guests.

Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner called to the front and introduced the students, who ranged from kindergarten to tenth grade. The children also displayed a banner bearing their signatures and says "Thank you veterans."

"It's so great for these students who took it upon themselves to write thank you notes to all the veterans who fought for our country's freedom," said Kelchner.

School principal Michael Berglund told *Saipan Tribune* it was the students who took the initiative to make the cards to honor veterans on their special day.

"It was the students' idea. They wanted to make cards for the veterans on Veterans Day. It was all student-driven and student-oriented," he said.

Berglund said one of the students heard about the Veterans Day celebration at the Court of Honor so they called the American Memorial Park and asked if they could attend the program and hand out the cards.

According to Berglund, this was the first time the students made special thank you cards for the veterans.

Eight-grader Hatsuko Bearden said they gave out a total of 86 cards yesterday but added that they are making more cards to be given to the American Red Cross, which will mail out the cards to active duty members in the military.

She said the school provided the materials they used to make the cards.

"We thank the veterans for giving us freedom and peace," said Bearden, adding that she feels relieved after being given the chance to express her gratitude.

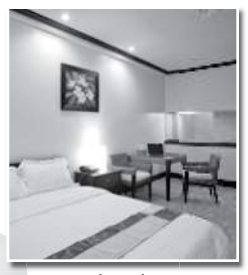
Valera Jotanovic, a second-grade student, said she made two cards for yesterday's occasion.

"I like Veterans Day because Americans fought hard to keep our country's freedom," said Jotanovic.

Berglund said the students' action represents the kind of students they bring up at the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School.

"They care about freedom and they want to know more about it. They want to promote what the veterans have done and show them honor and respect. This is what we teach them in school and that's what they showed. We're really excited about it," he said.

Grades 5 and 6 homeroom teacher Tina Anglin also accompanied the students.

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Telecom carriers in the CNMI now required to submit annual reports

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has made mandatory the submission of annual reporting requirements for telecommunications carriers in the CNMI for them to continue to do business on the islands.

During its first two years of operation, the commission used an ad hoc process by which it examined the continuing eligibility of Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. and PTI Pacifica Inc. to receive federal grants for high-cost projects.

CPUC now elects to formalize this review process after a public review and hearing.

Once approved, the requirement shall apply to all annual certification reviews that are conducted on and after Oct. 1, 2010, and will cover all eligible telecommunications carriers that do business in the CNMI.

Documents posted on the commission's website show that for a telecommunications carrier to retain its eligibility for federal high-cost support, it must file with the CPUC the annual reporting information required by law no later than July 31 of each year.

The report will include a description of investments made and expenses paid with support from the federal high-cost fund; number of requests for service from applicants that were unfulfilled for the reporting period; number of complaints made to the FCC; certifications and other requirements for any eligible telecommunication carrier that it is a wireless carrier; and a certification that it had the ability during the past year to handle emergency situations by ensuring compliance with all backup requirements.

Also part of the reporting requirements is a certification that the carrier has publicized the availability of its applicable telephone assistance programs, as well as progress toward meeting the targets in its five-year service quality improvement plan.

Detailed information on any outrage and a report on the number of complaints or trouble reports are also required.

These reports shall be presented with a petition seeking appropriate CPUC action. Review of the reports will later take place to determine if the carrier is in compliance with federal and local regulations.

The Federal Communications Commission and U.S. Administrative Company would be notified of each company's compliance with the standards in ensuring that each eligible telecommunications carrier is authorized to receive federal support for the upcoming fiscal year.

CPUC is authorized under its enabling legislation to determine and regulate the eligibility of telecommunications carriers for federal high-cost support.

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Judge's order in Villagomez hearing confuses prosecutor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The order issued by U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett that paved the way for the evidentiary hearing in the case of former lieutenant governor Timothy Villagomez and couple James and Joaquina Santos, has confused the U.S. government.

U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley had a lengthy discussion with Bennett about his interpretation of the judge's order after the prosecution and the defendants completed calling their witnesses to the witness stand on Wednesday morning.

Bennett disagreed with O'Malley's interpretation and had to read his order again, saying he does not want to prejudice the prosecution.

O'Malley said that part of Bennett's order in effect states that "if defendants [Villagomez and the Santoses] knew of the issue about excluding the public during jury selection, or should have known about it, and failed to make it a part of the record at the time of trial, this would warrant denial of their Rule 10e motion."


Bennett

Rule 10e refers to the defendants' motion to conduct an evidentiary hearing.

O'Malley interpreted the order to mean that the defense must explain that they did not know of the court's closure to the public during the jury selection—and could not have been reasonably expected to know—in order for them to have the opportunity for the evidentiary hearing.

If the defense can't show that, O'Malley said, everything from the two days of evidentiary hearing is moot.

Bennett disagreed, however, with O'Malley's interpretation of his order. He stated that he is only going to decide on facts, as the matter is up to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Lailani Lujan and Ramon Quichocho, the lawyers of Villagomez and Joaquina Santos, agreed with the judge that they did not expect to have a second part hearing as the Ninth Circuit will decide on the legal issues.

O'Malley urged Bennett to make an explicit ruling on the issue of whether or not the defendants waived their rights by not putting the public's exclusion from the jury trial on the record at the time.

In a later interview with *Saipan Tribune*, O'Malley said that one of the lines in the judge's order was if the defense counsel or the defendants knew or should have known about the issue [excluding the public] at the time of trial but still failed to put it on record, that would warrant denial of their motion.

"By that line, the judge said, in my view, [that] if the defense counsel can explain, have a very good reason for why they didn't put it on the record at the time, then they are not entitled to the whole evidentiary hearing now," O'Malley said.

He said his understanding of the procedure was that the judge is going to do the evidentiary hearing first and then decide whether or not a second part was even necessary.

The evidentiary hearing seeks to determine whether or not then federal judge Alex R. Munson closed the jury selection to the public. It was conducted for the defendants' motion to settle the record in the trial. Bennett placed the case under advisement on Wednesday.

Bennett noted at the hearing that there was no credible evidence that members of the public were allowed inside the courtroom during jury selection.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are currently serving their sentences in federal prison for their participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

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Crime lab problem delays defendants' trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Another failure by the CNMI government to obtain test results on time on suspected methamphetamine or "ice" has delayed court proceedings against two defendants, according to Superior Court documents.

Male defendant Gu Xu Tian, however, had pleaded guilty and has already been sentenced but the case against Tian's female co-defendant, Bao Hong Yin, was later dismissed with prejudice, which means it cannot be re-opened.

Court documents show that authorities arrested Tian and Yin, both Chinese nationals, in April 2010 for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice."

Authorities allegedly conducted a sting operation after receiving information that Tian is a major supplier of "ice" in Papago, Saipan.

The jury trial of the two was originally set for Aug. 23, 2010. Shortly before the Aug. 23 trial date, the Office of the Attorney General asked the court to reschedule the trial as the alleged "ice" seized during the operation had not been tested because the CNMI does not have a crime laboratory.

The Drug Enforcement Administration used to handle drug tests for the CNMI government but the two had a falling out, forcing the CNMI to depend on a new testing laboratory in Guam.

The defendants asked for the case's dismissal but Associate Judge Perry Inos denied this and agreed to move the trial to Sept. 27, 2010.

Seven days before the trial, however, Tian pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit trafficking of controlled substance as part of a plea bargain with the government.

The court sentenced him to five years in prison, all suspended except for 20 days, with credit for the 20 days he had already served in jail.

Tian agreed to voluntarily leave the CNMI within 125 days from Sept. 20, 2010.

Two days later on Sept. 22, 2010, the OAG moved to dismiss the charges against Yin, which the court granted.

Yin, through counsel Robert T. Torres, recently asked the court to exonerate the bail posted for her as well as the return of her passport and cell phone.

A certain Xilang Wang posted a $2,000 cash bail to secure Yin's pre-trial release from detention.

On Nov. 5, 2010, Judge Inos granted Yin's request.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja in a recent ruling in another "ice" case noted that the DEA-CNMI government's working relationship has recently deteriorated and the government has had to contract with a new laboratory in Guam to perform its drug tests.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 12, 1999

Govt eyes bond float next year

The government is eyeing the first two months of the new year to launch the proposed of $60 million bond float that will be used to match federal construction grants under the capital improvement projects. Finance officials and lawmakers are expected to discuss today ways on how to carry out the plan, which is part of the financing scheme approved recently by the Legislature, with investment firm Paine Webber hired to underwrite the bonds. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Karl T. Reyes said the meeting will focus on scheduling the sale of the bonds so that the government can line up projects to be funded by its proceeds.

Teno: We will pay our obligations

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said the government is not running away from its financial responsibilities, although it will take some time before it can settle the mounting debts it owes to both private and public vendors. He said he has inherited these obligations from previous administration and that they are trying their best to meet them in time. "That's an obligation of the government and we have to look for funding to pay our accounts," Tenorio told reporters in an interview. "We try to find resources so that we could pay our obligation." The NMI Retirement Fund has been asking the administration to pay more than $26 million in unpaid contributions for nearly 5,000 public sector employees incurred since June last year.

Nov. 12, 2001

Progress on enforcement of immigration laws noted

The Commonwealth's immigration chief underscored the improvements carried out by the CNMI government in the enforcement of local immigration laws. This, as Division of Immigration Director Antonio P. Sablan said he prefers to continue with local enforcement of immigration laws. "I think the Covenant provided that we be accorded the opportunity to handle immigration locally as well as handle our own labor situation out here," said Sablan. "I think that for the past eight years, the Commonwealth has made great strides in improving in these areas."

CNMI honors war veterans

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 3457 yesterday accorded Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio with an honorary veteran certificate. Tenorio also received the official uniform and badge of VFWs, officially making him a member of the Post 3457. In a speech, Tenorio urged constituents to always remember the sacrifices made by men and women in uniform to preserve the freedom that the United States and its territories enjoy now. He said that soldiers, both from the US and the CNMI, have made tremendous sacrifices to liberate the people and preserve freedom.

Nov. 12, 2002

Effluent discharge polluting lagoon

Effluent discharged to the Saipan Lagoon from reverse osmosis facilities of several hotels and other establishments have failed to meet allowable standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, pouring nutrients that have contributed to algal growth. Consequently, these establishments are in violation of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Mike Lee, a wastewater expert from the EPA Region IX, said reverse osmosis facilities discharge brine water containing excessive nitrogen and phosphorus, elements that are regulated by the federal agency. Although the facilities were permitted under the NPDES, the EPA required the establishments to conduct monitoring.

CPA explains public land use to MPLA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority said additional land is needed at the Saipan seaport area to bolster its capability to generate needed revenues in light of the agency's plan to make the island's harbor an international facility. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said a letter was sent to the Marianas Public Lands Authority to shed light on some of the questions raised by the MPLA Board. Salas explained that the letter also specifically pointed why the CPA needs to get the additional land and how it would help the seaport in generating additional money that would also fuel the local economy. "The letter explained the reason behind this and it was submitted to the MPLA," the executive director said. Initial assessment made by the CPA disclosed that the Southern Container Yard could triple the average number of what the Northern Container Yard can now accommodate.

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By TIM RUTTEN
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

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Make way for gridlock

The Republican electoral wave that rolled across America on Tuesday was propelled by two powerful currents, overlapping in places and diverging in others.

It will take a day or more to sort out precisely where these results rank among the great congressional swings of the past century, but we do know that they were propelled by both the "tea party" movement and by the disenchantment of independents, many of whom voted for Barack Obama two years ago but this time deserted the Democrats in droves. These tendencies were both driven, in part, by an angry disillusion felt by many voters. Polling has found that popular confidence in every big American institution—political parties, business, labor, organized religion, the media—is at an all-time low.

On Tuesday, CNN's national exit poll found that a solid majority of voters disapproved of both the Democratic and the Republican parties. In many cases, the GOP may have benefited from the fact that the most visible symbol of the status quo was President Obama, a Democrat.

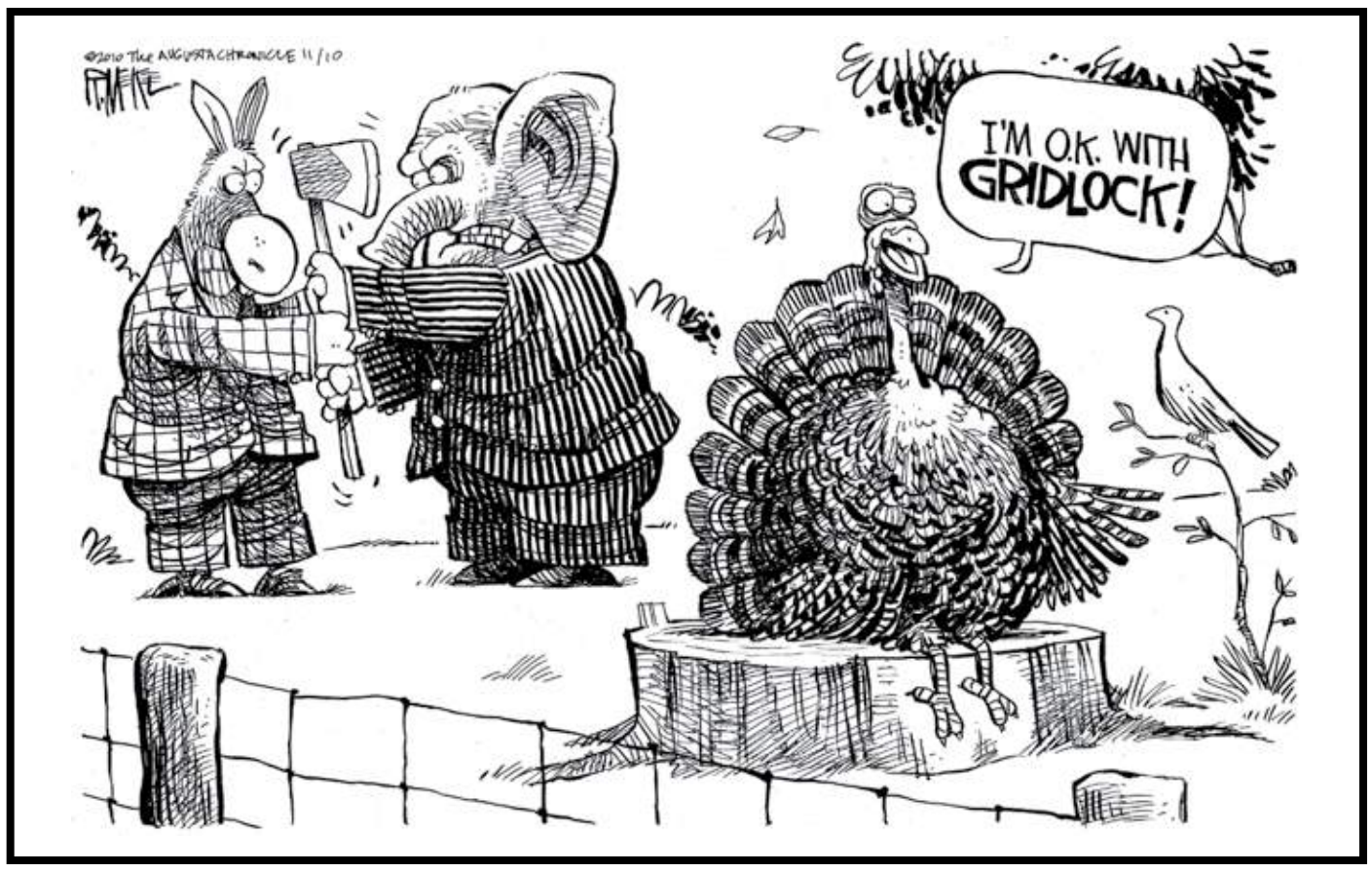
But the voters who registered their discontent Tuesday did not all come from the same perspective. The tea party populists have an ideological antipathy to government and a visceral hostility to the give-and-take of politics. They believe government and political compromise are the real sources of the country's problems. Independents, on the other hand, are by their nature non-ideological, instinctive believers in what Arthur Schlesinger called "the politics of remedy." They're angry and disenchanted because they believe government and politics have failed catastrophically. That's particularly true of voters over age 65, who cast almost one in four of Tuesday's ballots.

The Republicans' congressional leaders also are likely to resist compromise, though for reasons of their own. (If you're getting a sense of conflicting agendas as opposed to clear mandates, there's a reason.) Rep. John A. Boehner of Ohio, who barring something unforeseen will be the next speaker of the House, has said repeatedly on the stump that "there will be no compromise" in the next Congress. Another House Republican leader, Mike Pence of Indiana—a likely presidential candidate—told a television interviewer that "there will be no compromise in ending this era of runaway spending, deficits and debt, no compromise on repealing Obamacare lock, stock and barrel."

Current Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky says the main objective of the next two years will be ensuring Obama's defeat in 2012. That's what's really on the Republican establishment's mind. They believe their party squandered a historic opportunity when they won 52 seats in 1994, but then pursued an overly ambitious agenda under then-Speaker Newt Gingrich. That mistake resulted in a disastrous government shutdown, which, in turn, forced a series of compromises with President Clinton, who won reelection two years later.

Neither Boehner nor McConnell wants to let that happen

See MAKE on Next 14



America, he's your President for goodness sake!

Editor's Note: This column was originally published in Senior Living *magazine and posted online* (http://www.seniorlivingmag.com) *on Oct. 1, 2010. It is being published here with the author's permission.*



By WILLIAM THOMAS

For comments, ideas or a signed copy of a book, go to www.williamthomas.ca.

There was a time not so long ago when Americans, regardless of their political stripes, rallied round their president. Once elected, the man who won the White House was no longer viewed as a republican or democrat, but the President of the United States. The oath of office was taken, the wagons were circled around the country's borders and it was America versus the rest of the world with the president of all the people at the helm.

Suddenly President Barack Obama, with the potential to become an exceptional president, has become the glaring exception to that unwritten, patriotic rule.

Four days before President Obama's inauguration, before he officially took charge of the American government, Rush Limbaugh boasted publicly that he hoped the president would fail. Of course, when the president fails the country flounders. Wishing harm upon your country in order to further your own narrow political views is selfish, sinister and a tad treasonous as well.

Subsequently, during his State of the Union address, which is pretty much a pep rally for America, an unknown congressional representative from South Carolina, later identified as Joe Wilson, stopped the show when he called the President of the United States a liar. The president showed great restraint in ignoring this unprecedented insult and carried on with his speech. Speaker Nancy Pelosi was so stunned by the slur, she forgot to jump to her feet while clapping wildly, 30 or 40 times after that.

Last spring, President Obama took his wife Michelle to see a play in New York City and republicans attacked him over the cost of security for the excursion. The president can't take his wife out to dinner and a show without being scrutinized by the political opposition? As history has proven, a president in a theatre without adequate security is a tragically bad idea.

Remember: "Apart from that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play?"

At some point, the treatment of President Obama went from offensive to ugly and then to downright dangerous.

The health-care debate, which looked more like extreme fighting in a mud pit than a national dialogue, revealed a very vulgar side of America. President Obama's face appeared on protest signs white-faced and blood-mouthed in a satanic clown image. In other tasteless portrayals, people who disagreed with his position distorted his face to look like Hitler complete with mustache and swastika.

Odd, that burning the flag makes Americans crazy, but depicting the president as a clown and a maniacal fascist is accepted as part of the new rude America.

Maligning the image of the leader of the free world is one thing, putting the president's life in peril is quite another. More than once, men with guns were videotaped at the health-care rallies where the president spoke. Again, history shows that letting men with guns get within range of a president has not served America well in the past.

And still the "birthers" are out there claiming Barack Obama was not born in the United States, although public documentation proves otherwise. Hawaii is definitely part of the United States, but the Panama Canal Zone where his electoral opponent Senator John McCain was born? Nobody's sure.

Last month, a 44-year-old woman in Buffalo was quite taken by President Obama when she met him in a chicken wing restaurant called Duff's. Did she say something about a pleasure and an honour to meet the man or utter encouraging words for the difficult job he is doing? No. Quote: "You're a hottie with a smokin' little body."

Lady, that was the President of the United States you were addressing, not one of the Jonas Brothers! He's your president for goodness sakes, not the guy driving the Zamboni at "Monster Trucks On Ice." Maybe next it'll be, "Take Your President To A Topless Bar Day."

In President Barack Obama, Americans have a charismatic leader with a good and honest heart. Unlike his predecessor, he's a very intelligent leader. And unlike that president's predecessor, he's a highly moral man.

In President Obama, Americans have the real deal, the whole package and a leader that citizens of almost every country around the world look to with great envy. Given the opportunity, Canadians would trade our leader, hell, most of our leaders for Obama in a heartbeat.

What America has in Obama is a head of state with vitality and insight and youth. Think about it, Barack Obama is a young Nelson Mandela. Mandela was the face of change and charity for all of Africa but he was too old to make it happen. The great things Obama might do for America and the world could go on for decades after he's out of office.

America, you know not what you have.

The man is being challenged unfairly, characterized with vulgarity and treated with the kind of deep disrespect to which no previous president was subjected. It's like the day after electing the first black man to be president, thereby electrifying the world with hope and joy, Americans sobered up and decided the bad old days were better.

President Obama may fail but it will not be a Richard Nixon default fraught with larceny and lies. President Obama, given a fair chance, will surely succeed but his triumph will never come with a Bill Clinton caveat—"if only he'd got control of that zipper."

Please. Give the man a fair, fighting chance. This incivility toward the leader who won over Americans and gave hope to billions of people around the world that their lives could be enhanced by his example, just naturally has to stop.

Believe me, when Americans drive by the White House and see a sign on the lawn that reads: "No shirt. No shoes. No service," they'll realize this new national rudeness has gone way, way too far.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bah humbug commodities



By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Even though the Commonwealth is remote, remote doesn't mean insulated from reality. Oblivious, perhaps; but insulated, no. The Commonwealth depends on the outside world for, well, for everything, basically. So you will soon notice that prices for a lot of stuff, such as gas, food, clothes, and some other merchandise are going up. Up, I say. Hey, just in time for Christmas!

Don't blame your local store. The reason for the price tag Bah Humbug is that raw materials such as oil, sugar, copper, and cotton, to name a few star players, are climbing in price.

Yes indeed, you're going to be reading a lot about commodities in the coming years. That's no surprise to my regular readers, who note that commodities are the first field on the market data section of my website.

So, what's going on here?

Part of it is the fact that the U.S. dollar is being watered down, a situation that, as bad as it is, might hit Four-Star Wacky at any time.

Meanwhile, as the U.S. economy moves down, Asia is moving up. Which brings us to the second factor: Industrial Asia's growth means that Asia has more demand for materials to feed its factories and to serve its consumers. So it's a double pull in prices, as the supply side (factories) and the demand side (consumers), work together, saying, Billy Idol-style, "More, More, More."

Now, this is hardly a unique observation, but ponder the demand for gasoline and steel and aluminum and rubber and copper (for wiring) and lead (for batteries) when China's 1.3 billion people start buying sedans.

Or ponder the price of beef, and the corn that feeds it, when China develops a taste for Big Macs, and consider the price of sugar as China wants a Coke to wash down those delectable offerings of two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles and onions on a sesame seed bun.

See what I mean?

China sees. And it is, as usual, playing it smart, and is making energy, agriculture, and mineral forays in the Middle East, Africa, and South America.

Commodities, baby. The world is all about commodities. Always has been, actually: It's about who has the brains to use them in a value-added process (hello, Adam Smith), and who has the muscle to safeguard their supply lines (hello, Alfred Thayer Mahan). Yes, brains and muscle. Muscle and brains.

Sometimes economics mimics biology. That's evolution, eh? It moves in fits and starts; it's latent for awhile, a big snooze, but just when a top species gets too fat, too torpid, and too smug for its own good, GROWL!, a hungry tiger roars onto the scene.

Is that why they call the East's industrial economies "Asian tigers"? Hey, why not?

Anyway, moving from the world's economic jungle back to local shores, let's ponder this: In theory, as you know, the Commonwealth could thrive by selling package tourism to Asian travelers. If Asia is the supplier of stuff to the world, we could supply the suppliers with sunshine and a well-deserved, three-day rest. But I've only pointed that out for 12 years now, and to no effect since Saipan has, as the saying goes, "other priorities."

Furthermore, looking at the dollar side of things, instead of a watered-down dollar meaning more tourists and income, which it could have meant, it just means higher expenses for Commonwealth households. The CNMI turned a plus into a minus. That's pretty brilliant economic planning; the local government's patronage toadies did good work, sacrificing an otherwise viable economy on the altar of bureaucratic farce, folly, and fraud. "Other priorities," indeed.

It's fine with me, since I have a macabre appreciation of the absurd, but I think a lot of people aren't so happy with it as they wonder how they can pay the rent this month.

Let's close on a positive note: This is an opportunity, as unwelcome as it may seem, for some folks to get a handle on the world of commodities. It's a big deal. And it's going to get bigger. Some of the Commonwealth's more talented youth might wind up as commodities analysts or traders in Asia if they play their cards right, study the right stuff, and make the right connections.

On that note, I'd like to inspire our brightest and best. Therefore, in next week's column we'll take a trip on the world's commodities fast lane.

Why we should: Part 3

Last of a three-part series



By STANLEY MCGINNIS TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stanley McGinnis Torres is a representative in the 17th CNMI Legislature.

In the past two days, we have looked at two of the three main reasons we should seriously consider the case for legalizing adult marijuana possession, use, sales, exports and farming. First, we looked at the constitutionally guaranteed inalienable right to liberty and personal freedom and the unconstitutional power-grab by the federal government that imposes an uneasy prohibition today. Yesterday, we noted that the legalization of pot does not cause crime to increase and instead, legalizing it reduces crime and stops the funding of terrorists and criminals.

Today, we will have a look at the financial and sustainability considerations of legalizing marijuana use.

In the first installment of this series, I mentioned that in light of the present pitiful state of the CNMI economy, legalizing this harmless herb would put billions of dollars into our economy and that the income produced would far outweigh the paltry losses from federal funds. Am I crazy? How could we come up with that much money for our ailing economy? Billions? Over time, yes, billions.

Specifically, where would the money come from? There are several possibilities, including a farming tax, a finished product tax, a stiff export duty and of course the highest income earner would be from tourists coming here to find a free use area where they are not harassed by law enforcement for simply enjoying this basically harmless herb. A value added BGRT, say 15 or 20 percent of gross receipts on stores or MJ bars, spas or other retail outlets could infuse huge amounts of tax income directly into our government treasury. The visitors would come from all over the world to enjoy a safe haven. Word will spread like wildfire that at last, there is a freedom-loving society that will allow regulated and taxed marijuana use in a controlled and safe environment. The multiplier effect will turn each tourist dollar spent into 3 or 4 more as it circulates in and out of the CNMI economy. There are undoubtedly other ways to make sure that significant portions of the billions of dollars generated stay right here in the CNMI. Business entrepreneurs and government organizations can find many other avenues of income generation in a public/private partnership that revitalizes the CNMI and puts us squarely on the world stage as a first-class destination with a unique draw.

It is heralded in the newspapers and the world press every day about how much money is spent on prohibited drugs and herbs. Who gets most of the money from the "illegal" drug trade? The answer is criminals, terrorists and others who launder the untaxed funds and loot the treasuries of the countries they do business in. Why not let our government and our economy fund itself off of the huge amounts of money that this trade draws? There is a massive demand and it will only grow over time, making the choice to use this income stream a very sustainable long-term choice for the CNMI. Why not make a legal export trade and grow branded "Saipan Simiya" or "Tinian Twang" or "Rota Relaxation" for taxed export to those U.S. states that allow medical marijuana use and to those countries where such use and/or personal use is allowed?

Tourists will flock to these shores and I don't mean the backpacking hippies and hostel stayers. I mean upscale professionals, doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs, etc., who are harassed in their own countries for simply enjoying a relaxing buzz. I predict that we might soon see a waiting list form for visitors to be able to arrive here. We currently have the capability to handle about 750,000 visitors per year. The limiting factor is hotel accommodations. I foresee new hotel and resort opportunities on Rota and Tinian as well as increases in the Saipan inventory of hotel rooms. Tourism will be booming again and it won't take years; it will happen quickly. Tinian and Rota will share in the boom this time.

We could have a real sustainable cash export crop by catering to the many U.S. states and the many other jurisdictions that allow medical or recreational uses of marijuana. A farming tax on rolled/packed/cartoned or bulk sales for local use or for export and on the raw commodity as it exits the fields backed by a stiff set of penalties for harvesting in "unregistered" or non-taxpaying fields. Much of the fantastically abundant farmland on Saipan, Tinian and Rota could become productive and useful. Remember that there are myriad other uses of "hemp" fiber other than as a recreational smoke or for making brownies for oral ingestion. Rope fibers, sustainable cloth production, even "plastics" substitutes plus hundreds of other uses have been invented and documented for this versatile plant.

In addition to recreational use tourism, we would see a boom in medically related uses, too. A massive Asian market would open up in addition to other tourists and patients from around the world. Clinics will open here which will improve health care for our local citizenry too.

Some worry about the few tens of millions that might be lost from dole-outs and begging from the U.S. government. I would suggest that those federal handouts are tiny in comparison to the income that will be generated by using medical and personal use marijuana as the CNMI's new import/export industry. I believe that it would become a multibillion dollar industry in a relatively short time. We will be financially independent.

How we use this newfound and sustainable wealth will be up to public and private decision makers but real infrastructure improvements like roads and parks and museums and libraries and modern schools and clean, well lit trails connecting all of these will be within our means for a change. Won't it be nice to have the money for these and other improvements for our beautiful islands?

No, I don't smoke pot and I don't grow any on my farm. I am willing to look at this form of income because it represents an ideal of personal freedom and because it has a chance to make all the people who call the CNMI home have a productive economic base. A truly sustainable future that we control ourselves is possible if we make this simple suggestion a reality. It's not rocket science. It's simple economics. Jobs will be created for our local workforce and plenty will be left over for any guest workers who might want to and are allowed to stay here. Our islands will be booming again. Please give this a chance to work for the benefit of all.



By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the U.S. Congress.

Tribute, respect and honor for veterans and their families

Editor's Note: The author submitted the following for publication in the Thursday, Nov. 11 edition of the Saipan Tribune *but the email was received on Nov. 11 itself, so it is being published in today's edition.*

Today, we pay tribute to the men and women who have honorably served in the armed forces. Regardless of whether the service was during war or peace time, this day—Veterans Day—acknowledges *all* who have chosen to serve. For every soldier, sailor, marine, airman, and coast guardsman who has taken the oath of service knows that he or she may be called to give their lives in defense of this country.

Today, we pay our respects to our service men and women who died and those who are still missing. We recognize those still here with us, especially those who have suffered serious injury seen and unseen. From the loss of life and limbs to the mental and emotional toll, they have paid the price for the rights and freedoms we often take for granted.

We in the Northern Marianas do not have to look far to find a veteran. Our sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors have represented our island and our people proudly. Today, we honor and remember them, especially our island's fallen sons and daughters.

And while this is a day for veterans, we must also remember their families who know their loved one's commitment to serve comes before all else—even them. Still, they stand strong and support their loved one, enduring their absence during important moments of life —the birth of a child, a birthday, an anniversary, the death of a loved one, and have had to take on the day-to-day details of family life. And when their loved one is called away from home, they may not know where they are going or when—if—they will return. Yes, they too have sacrificed.

We owe all veterans, men and women in uniform and their families more than our gratitude. We owe them our support.

God bless you all.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

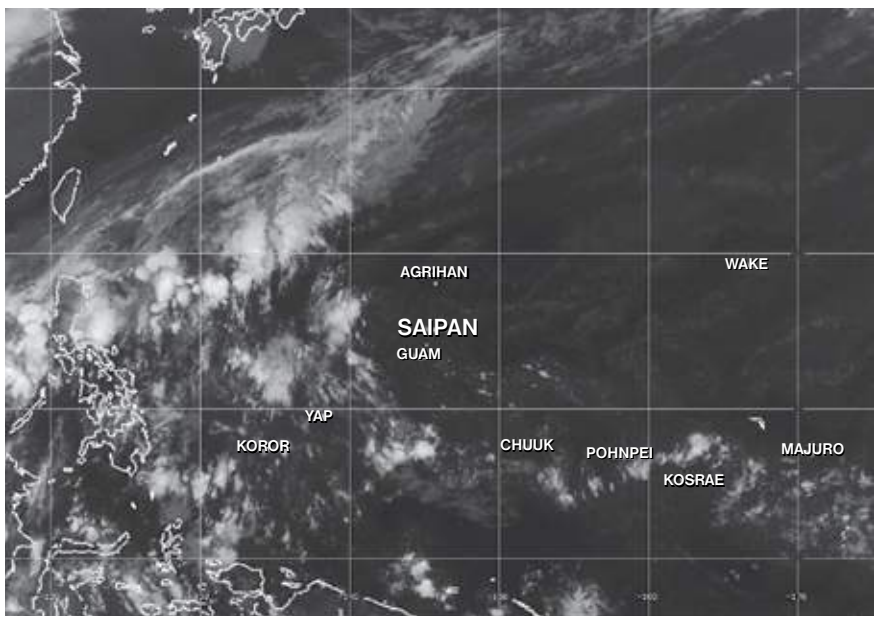
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼71
Kosrae	Rain	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼28
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼57
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Showers	▲56	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76	▼51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲65	▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
New York	Sunny	▲59	▼41
Osaka	Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Paris	Showers	▲58	▼52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼51
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼48
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼40
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲61	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough curves northwest from near Koror at 9N132E to 15N129E and then northeastward to beyond 25N at 150E. Another trough extends northeastward across Yap from 5N137E to 14N141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of a line from 1N139E to 5N147E to 11N145E to 17N135E ending at 24N141E. This area includes Yap and Koror. A weak surface trough near Kwajalein extends southeastward from 12N162E to 5N170E. This trough is producing scattered showers south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 9N165E to 5N169E to 5N173E and between Kosrae and Pohnpei within 90 miles of 6N161E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:25 AM	11:09 PM
Saturday	12:06 PM	11:58 PM
Sunday	12:43 PM	
Monday	1:18 PM	12:45 AM
Tuesday	1:53 PM	1:31 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/893	7:55am	10:10pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	6 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	3, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letter to the Editor

A modest proposal

The CNMI is experiencing a severe economic recession and the prospect for a quick recovery looks rather bleak. Our current economy cannot sustain the existing costs of operating our government and the delivery of vital public services is already being affected. It is time for us all to reassess our direction, solicit substantive and meaningful input of our local municipalities, and begin to formulate local solutions to solve our economic problems.

The current military buildup in the Marianas creates huge business opportunities and provides access to a massive market for our local entrepreneurs. We have the needed local resources as well as a tremendous advantage by way of our location. This chance to improve our collective lot, however, cannot be realized unless we get our act together and prepare to participate.

In this spirit, I call upon our local leaders to direct and coordinate local grassroots solutions to solve our economic problems. I recommend for the Rota Municipality, Tinian and Aguiguan Municipality, and the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipality to hold their own separate and respective Grassroots Economic Conference. Tinian has already started the process and Saipan, Rota, and the Northern Islands should follow suit. These gatherings must involve the local farmers, fishermen, students and instructors, and local merchants, as well as members of the local Chambers and hotel associations. The central government must then provide their logistical support to the participants before, during, and after each of the conferences. These agencies should include, at a minimum, the Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Development Authority, Department of Public Lands, Commonwealth Utilities Corp, and the departments of Lands & Natural Resources, Commerce, and Finance. Additional support should be provided by regulatory agencies including CRM, DEQ, HPO, and Zoning. The CNMI should then request the U.S. Department of the Interior and other local and federal resources to provide Technical Assistance Grants to hold the conferences and to prepare the final report and recommendations. The results of these three separate conferences should then be compiled and submitted to the central government for the development of the CNMI's Economic Development Strategy. Then this comprehensive and unified Strategy must be implemented with the greatest support from all parties.

The purposes of the CNMI Grassroots Economic Conference should be to:

■ Assess, evaluate, and recommend specific industries and business ventures or activities from each Municipality necessary to revitalize, rejuvenate, and diversify the CNMI's local economy;

■ Identify market access for local goods, services, and commodities (including understanding current procedures and protocols necessary to access military and other federal procurement contracts);

■ Increase private sector employment opportunities; and,

■ Improve the local community standard of living.

The conferences should identify major potential industries from each municipality based on experience (i.e. agriculture, fisheries, construction, service, etc) and available resources and then determine how best we can implement and expand upon these specific industries with the full support of the public and private sectors. We all know that Rota has great potential to export root crops (taro, yams, etc) and has the best and purest spring water in our part of the world. Tinian has excellent melons and beef. Saipan has proven it can successfully cultivate a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. The Northern Islands are excellent resource for citrus, commercial fisheries and volcanic mineral mining. These municipalities together can organize into one major "CNMI Market Place" providing the listed crops and commodities to Guam and the region.

In addition, it needs to be recognized that Tinian and Rota already have casino industries. We need to support and promote this industry on these two islands and consider them "CNMI casinos." We may also need to renegotiate how the revenues are shared.

Furthermore, because of the limited land size in Guam, the CNMI has a great potential to host major construction projects for the military particularly in fabrication and prefabrication work for projects in Guam. The CNMI should re-examine how to modify its Free Trade Zone laws to provide tax incentives for the prime contractors working on the military buildup projects.

As noted, the CNMI should act as one market and not compete within itself. In reference to agriculture, CNMI government agencies should provide specific assistance to include:

■ DPL to identify all available public land on each municipality that could be used for commercial agriculture and then make these land available as a priority to the farmers;

■ NMC CREES, DLNR Division of Agriculture & Soil & Water Conservation Districts, DEQ, USDA NRCS and others to identify specific variety of crops to be propagated based on experience, pest control measures, labor availability, irrigation systems, packaging, value-added processing, sales and marketing, export issues, conservation practices, and related matters;

■ CDA, Dept of Commerce, and the DOI to assist in the financial planning and funding aspects of farming;

■ CUC to assist in identifying and providing access to affordable water for irrigation purposes and electricity for value-added processing; and other related assistance; and,

■ These can then be replicated for the other industries.

It is true that there are many internal and external factors affecting our current struggling economic conditions. But it is also true that we have the basic tools as well as the opportunity and valuable resources to help us ride out this economic trauma. We must act now or we risk being considered part of the region's economic problem rather than an essential part of the solution.

Our great CNMI is faced with unprecedented challenges that negatively affect every facet of our lives. Furthermore, our dwindling economy cannot sustain the current costs of operating our government unless we take immediate and realistic

See MODEST on Next Page

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Letter to the Editor

Finally

I have been waiting for a long time for something positive to write about. I am very encouraged by the outcome of the last election. For the first time, voters broke the party and family lines and voted for the candidate. I hope that you will all continue to do so in the future.

New topic: The pot bill. How did the House ever pass this bill? Where are the supporting studies? What are the projected gains? How are they going to enforce this new law? Is this the kind of lawmaking that we are paying these members to do? I suggest that you get a copy of the paper that lists how each of them voted. Keep it and when those who voted for it run for re-election, do not vote for them.

New item: I am looking for CUC water customers who are not happy with being overcharged for water to sign up with me for a class action lawsuit against CUC for overcharging us for water. If there is a lawyer out there that would like to take this case on a contingency basis, please contact me. I still think the best way to solve the CUC problem is to form co-op utility company and take over CUC. Let's do it. After all we can't do any worse than the government has.

If you wish to contact me, my phone number is 322-2609; my cell is 483-1940

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Congratulation!

I would like to congratulate Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan for a job well done! Your landslide victory in our recent election proved that the people of the CNMI re-endorsed you to be their representative in the U.S. Congress because you care for the future of the people of the CNMI and you invest in the education of its children, which is the foundation of their lives and their families now and in the future. May the Lord bless you!

Teodoro Guiao
Navy Hill, Saipan

No to pot bill

Pass pot bill and lose funding? Who has any faith that our government can manage and control marijuana? We don't have the resources and the organization. Think of our kids. How many are using it for other than medical?

Del Benson
San Antonio

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Ford Feel the difference

MAKE

From Page 10

again. For the same reason, congressional Republicans won't be pursuing anything like the fundamental overhaul of government that tea party members would like to see. Boehner, who will be the first speaker since Democrat Tom Foley to have previously served as the chairman of a congressional committee, is a firm believer in traditional seniority and a committee system with powerful chairmen, and he has already signaled that he doesn't intend to alter that.

One of the first tests of his ability to discipline populist revolutionaries fresh from the electoral barricades will come when the new Congress is asked to raise the federal debt limit from $12.4 trillion to $14.3 trillion. No Congress has ever refused to approve such an increase and, if such a refusal were to occur, the consequences for the global financial system would be apocalyptic. Many of the new senators and House members have pledged to vote against an increase in the debt. Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity—one of the more active national tea party groups—told Politico this week that the Republicans' new House majority "cannot fold on the debt."

Neither is there likely to be a vote, quick or otherwise, that the insurgents want on a repeal of healthcare reform. Instead, there probably will be a series of procedural, regulatory and funding votes—the grinding legislative equivalent of trench warfare.

There will be a heated struggle, but it will be between the White House and the congressional leadership, a purely rhetorical battle over who can offer the country the best explanation for governmental stalemate, one that fixes the blame on the other side.

MODEST

From Page 13

measures to revitalize, diversify, and rejuvenate our economic base.

We cannot continue to let outside consultants and so-called "experts" tell us what they think we need or how they think we should do it. We have sufficient and competent local expertise, local resources, local experience, and local solutions to help ourselves. All we need to learn is how best to work in harmony and not to neutralize our effectiveness by competing with ourselves. Once we develop our CNMI's Economic Development Strategy, we must then follow through with their expeditious implementation.

We cannot succeed as a society if we continue to ignore our local people and our local resources. We must give ourselves the opportunity to participate in the development of our economic revitalization strategy. Too much is at stake to allow politics or other outside influence to dictate our economic path. We have great economic opportunities available to us but we must unite as one CNMI and act now!

Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Koblerville, Saipan

Tinian council chief checks out Hawaii shrimp farming

Patrick A. Manglona, chairman of the 13th Tinian Municipal Council, is currently in Honolulu, Hawaii, to look into the feasibility and viability of the Kahuku shrimp farming industry.

Shrimp production is one of the means being eyed to help augment the demands of the local tourism and casino industry and to prepare the island for the pending military realignment in the western Pacific Islands.

With the anticipated high demand and regional need for "organic" products, Manglona's trip aims to help local farmers find ways in which aquaculture and agricultural crop production can be re-invigorated to support the local and regional economies.

Upon his return, Manglona will be entertaining in the next municipal council session a resolution requesting the Department of Public Lands to designate 80 hectares of agricultural land on Tinian that will be used exclusively for aquaculture farming and commercial agriculture crop production.

The resolution is co-sponsored by Council secretary Joseph S.N. Cruz and supported by vice chair Steven P. Cabrera.

The Council will also seek the assistance and guidance of the Northern Marianas College in this sustainable industry.

"The lands that will be reserved has a two-pronged approach: it will help keep production competitive for entrepreneurs and will reserve lands for Chamorro agricultural crop farmers," said Manglona.

Cruz and Cabrera were unable to join Manglona on this trip due to a budget shortfall. However, they both gave their full support to the Council's mission to look for ways to stimulate the local economy, in collaboration with the Mayor of Tinian and the Tinian Legislative Delegation. ***(Richard Hofschneider)***

Second Saturday Strides tomorrow

Bring friends and family and come on down to the Commonwealth Cancer Association's Second Saturday Strides tomorrow, Nov. 13, 2010, from the Minatchom Atdao to the Quartermaster intersection and back.

Registration starts at 5:30am, and a $5 donation fee is requested. All proceeds go to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Participants who complete the run/walk will delight in tasty sample giveaways from Micronesian Brokers, and coupons for delicious fat-free frozen yogurt from Scoops. In recognition of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, participants are requested to wear grey or white.

Second Saturday Strides is made possible through the support of Micronesian Brokers (CNMI), Inc., Foremost Foods, Scoops, the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and volunteers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Naval Base Guam adopts holiday guest policy

SANTA RITA, Guam— Capt. Richard Wood, the commanding officer of Naval Base Guam, announced yesterday an advance approval policy for all guests accompanying authorized patrons at both the Naval Base Guam Navy Exchange and the Naval Base Guam Orote Point Commissary.

This policy becomes effective today, Nov. 11, 2010, throughout the holidays and until further notice in order to minimize congestion in the stores.

Authorized patrons wishing to escort a guest may mail their letter of request to the Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam, PSC 455 Box 152, FPO AP 96540-1000 or submit in person to the Administration Department, Building 3190, Office of the Commanding Officer, Naval Base Guam.

Letters should include the name, rank, (as applicable), status, (active duty, reserve, retiree, civilian) command (if appropriate), contact information of the authorized shopper, name of the guest, justification for the need to sponsor a guest, the date of the visit, and which store (i.e. Exchange or Commissary) is to be visited. A separate letter of request is required for each visit with a guest and for each store even if both stores are being visited on the same date. Letters of request without all required information will be denied.

If the authorized shopper is a dependent, then the letter should include the name, rank, status, and command (if appropriate), of the active duty sponsor or retiree.

Requestors should allow at least five working days from the date of Navy's receipt for processing. Letters approving or disapproving the guest request will be mailed unless directed in the letter of request to be held for pickup.

Store personnel will collect the authorization letter when the authorized patron presents the letter and their guest's identification.

This policy follows the provision of restricting guests during high volume shopping periods stated in the guest policy initiated Oct. 1, 2010. ***(USN)***





Saipan World Resort kicks off bold renovation plans

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan World Resort owner Hanwha Resort has embarked on a mission to revolutionize the hotel resort beginning with its World Buffet Restaurant.

The new face of the World Buffet Restaurant was launched in an intimate dinner on Oct. 30 that was attended by government bureaucrats, media representatives, and other guests.

The World Buffet floor renovation is part of Hanwha's five-year comprehensive hotel renewal and renovation plans for Saipan World Resort in keeping with its commitment to make it the most enjoyable resort on the island and the whole Asia.

The leader in Korea's resort and leisure industry took over the Saipan World Resort on Jan. 29 and has since focused its efforts on achieving its long-term goals for one of the most popular resorts in the Commonwealth.

President and general manager Matthew Park said the $70,000 project to revamp the World Buffet Restaurant is only the first stage of its million-dollar hotel enhancement plans for the plush 265-room resort.

Hanwha is poised to implement major construction plans like the elevator replacement for $950,000; lobby and exterior signage enhancement for $600,000; electric heat pump and guest room management system development for $1.7 million; and guest room enhancements for $7.26 million.

In addition, Hanwha is also preparing for its planned future investments, including landscape improvements worth $1 million; tanning pool renovations for $200,000; and additional water park attractions for $5 million.

"Not only will our hotel renovation be beneficial to our company, but I firmly believe that our investments and renewal efforts will contribute to further developments of our tourism industry and economy of the CNMI as a whole," said Park.

Park, who quoted the Korean adage, "Well begun is half done," said that Saipan World Resort is off to a good start. "I am convinced that with all the support of all of our friends… our [goal] to be the most enjoyable resort in Asia can be achieved with great success," he added.



CLARISSA DAVID

Saipan World Resort Sales & Marketing director Tae Won Park, third from left, poses with guests during the launch of the renovated World Buffet Restaurant on Oct. 30.



CLARISSA DAVID

Saipan World Resort legal counsel Rexford Kosack and guests.



CLARISSA DAVID

From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos' legal counsel Teresa Kim, Saipan Mayor and Mrs. Donald Flores, and Saipan World Resort president and general manager Matthew Park and other hotel executives.

THANK YOU!

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Saipan Post 3457
would like to thank the following individuals, corporations, and entities for helping to make its VFW Annual Golf Tournament a rousing success:

Triple J Wholesale; Tony Roma's; Truong's Restaurant; Capricciosa's; Joe's Bar & Grill; Herman's Modem Bakery; VFW Canteen; DOCOMO Pacific; Fujitec; Saipan Grand Hotel; Godfather's Bar; G4S; DFS Saipan, Ltd.; Pacific Amusement; Fiesta Resort & Spa; I-Connect; Pacific Islands Club; Toshiba & Mr. Kim Kyu Yeon; USA Island Seafood; ASC Construction; Scott Magliari; Traders Insurance; anonymous Saipan Attorney; SSFM; Equitable Insurance; Natibu Kitchen; JG Sablan Ice & Water; Echo Company, 442nd Battalion; all the players; and VFW members and their families who helped make the event a success.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Book sale on Saturday at public library

The Library Friends will be having a Book Sale at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, from 7am to 12pm.

Hardcovers, $1; paperbacks, $.50. Everything is priced to sell. Come look for some special bargains.

All proceeds will benefit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, helping to improve general library offerings. Please come and support your library! ***(PR)***

'Zombie Prom' at PIC this weekend

Zombies are coming! The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands will stage the musical comedy, *Zombie Prom* by Dempsey and Rowe this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Charley's Cabaret, PIC. Show time is 7pm on Friday and Saturday and 3pm matinee on Sunday. Tickets will be sold at the door for $8 adults and $5 students. ***(PR)***

Kagman High sets 'Freshmen Literacy Night'

Kagman High School is hosting the "Freshmen Literacy Night" in coordination with the Parent Teacher Student Association during the monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 5pm to 6pm, in the school cafeteria. Important PTSA, school and freshmen class matters will be discussed. The freshmen class counselor will be available for inquiries as well. Should you have any questions, call Kagman High School at 664-3780. ***(PR)***

Saipan mayor on Marianas Agupa tomorrow

Tomorrow, Nov. 13, 2010, Marianas Agupa will feature Mayor Donald G. Flores, Mayor of Saipan, from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the ongoing projects by the Office of the Mayor and the establishment of a sister city relationship with Japan and Korea.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report by former mayor Joseph S. Inos followed by special report from Rota with correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola and a report from Tinian by former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Last call for submissions to island writing anthology

The deadline to submit original work for the upcoming anthology *Stories from Wild Bill's Cafe: Life, Love and Spicy Tofu in the Northern Mariana Islands* is Dec. 15.

Submitted work will be blind reviewed by a panel of editors. The lead editors of *Stories from Wild Bill's Café* are Jane Mack, Joe Race, Jaime Vergara, and Angelo O'Connor Villagomez.

Writers interested in submitting work for the anthology can contact the editors at WildBillStories@gmail.com. Submission guidelines are available upon request. Writers whose work is chosen for submission will receive two (2) copies of *Stories from Wild Bills Café*. ***(PR)***

Donations needed for 5th Christmas giveaway for Tinian kids

maia's Free Books & Donation Center on Tinian is gearing up for its fifth year in a row of providing at least one Christmas gift for each of the island's neediest children.

Donations can be dropped off at the Center, which is in the duplex behind the Mayor's offices, any time of the day or night, any day of the week.

For additional information, maia can be reached by phone at 433-9993, or by email at maia3maia@hotmail.com. For donation pick-up, donors can call maia, or Donation Center volunteer Connie Manglona directly, at 287-3285. ***(PR)***

Courts adopt new austerity work hours

The CNMI Judicial Council has adopted the following measures to implement austerity days for work hours of its personnel as well as hours of operation. Court House business hours on the three islands will change as follows:

SAIPAN

■ Partial closure today, Nov. 12, and every other Friday thereafter.

■ Effective Jan. 1, 2011, operation will be partially closed every Friday. Only essential services will be provided and minimal staff will be designated to address docket requirements on austerity Fridays.

ROTA &TINIAN

■ Closed on Monday, Nov. 8, and every other Monday thereafter until Dec. 31, 2010.

■ Effective Jan. 1, 2011 operation will be closed every Monday.

For more information, call the Clerk of Court's office at 236-9700 on Saipan; 433-3410 on Tinian and 532-9422 Rota, or by contacting the Supreme Court's Public Information Office at 236-9716. ***(PR)***

Military training on FDM set

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Force Marianas Guam, is informing the general public that the U.S military would be conducting military training on Farallon De Mendenilla on Nov. 16-17, 2010, from 8am to 5pm.

The general locations for this activity will on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Mama Au Villegas, who is celebrating her birthday today Nov. 12, 2010! We wish you all the best! May you have many more birthdays to come and God bless! We love you! Greetings come from Queen Anne, Daphne Rylee, Keeno, and Louis!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 17th birthday, Brittany Colleen! Wishing you many mores years filled with blessed love and happiness. Greetings come from your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 6th birthday to Jesse Thorn Faisao Tudela! May you have many more birthdays to come. Love always from Mommy, Princess Kae, brother Javin and the family.

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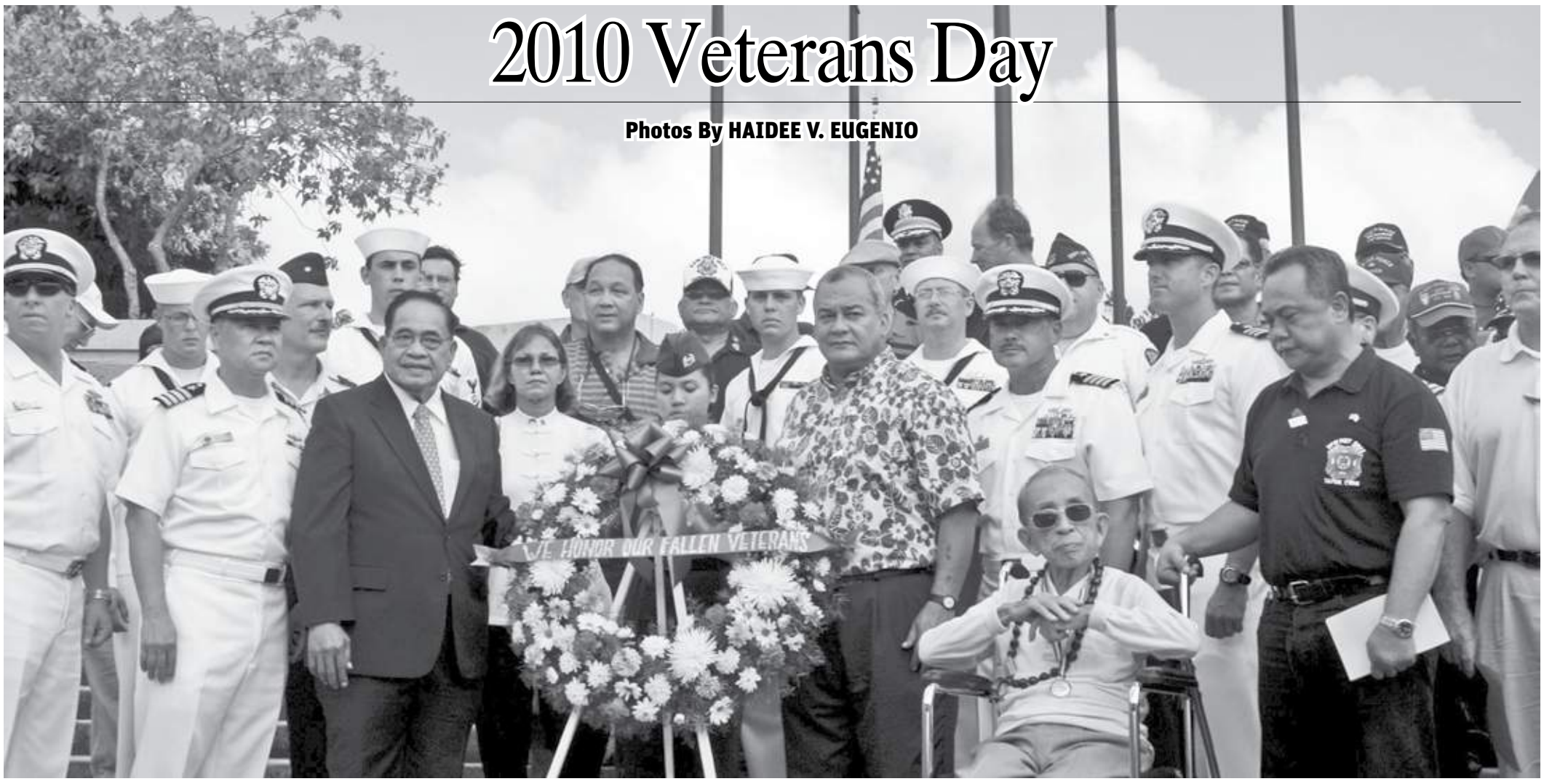


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2010 Veterans Day

Photos By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, keynote speaker Capt. Ulysses Zalamea of the Joint Region Marianas, guest speaker Lt. Commander Felton Gilmore of the U.S. Coast Guard, government officials, veterans and active members of the U.S. military pose for a group photo during the Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor in Garapan yesterday.



One of the oldest veterans in the crowd receives a medal for his service.



A flag that used to be hoisted at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor is presented to a veteran.



Capt. Ulysses Zalamea, left, chief of staff of the Joint Region Marianas, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial are all smiles.



Barry Hirshbein receives personally made "thank you" cards from Saipan Seventh Day Adventist students.



Dignitaries look up to the skies to see a B-52 aircraft flyby.



American Memorial Park ranger Nancy Kelchner, left, with veteran Frank Cepeda.



A Saipan Southern High School JROTC cadet at the retiring of colors.



A Pacific Winds Concert Band bugler plays taps as an American flag flutters in the wind.



A B-52 aircraft flyby during the Veterans Day ceremony, courtesy of the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, 36th Wing out of Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.


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Business

G20 struggles to find common ground on disputes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Major nations struggled Thursday to break a deadlock on how to fix the global economy as President Barack Obama warned the U.S. cannot continue to be a profligate consumer on borrowed money.

Obama and the leaders of China, Japan, Germany and South Korea were also scheduled to hold a flurry of one-on-one talks bound to touch on sensitive trade and security issues ahead of the Group of 20 summit of major rich and developing nations, which officially opens later Thursday.

Compromise among major G-20 countries has looked difficult in recent weeks. It is divided between those like the United States that see the top priority as getting China to let its currency rise and those irate over U.S. Federal Reserve plans to pump $600 billion of new money into the sluggish American economy, effectively devaluing the dollar.

"Reducing imbalances between developed countries and developing countries is an urgent matter we have to resolve for a balanced global economy," South Korean President and summit host Lee Myung-bak told a business leaders' conference ahead of the meetings.



AP

Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, fourth left, meets South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak, sixth right, at the presidential Blue House in Seoul Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010.

"We must coordinate together because if each country asserts its own interest, it may help them for the time being, but the world economy will eventually retreat," he warned.

The G-20, which brings together the world's richest economies and emerging countries such as China, India and Brazil, has become the centerpiece of top-level efforts to revive a struggling global economy and to prevent a financial meltdown of the kind seen two years ago.

Over the past two days, government ministers and senior G20 officials—called 'Sherpas' in diplomatic-speak because they do much of the groundwork—have labored to hammer out a substantive joint statement to be issued at the end of the summit Friday.

"Major countries have been deadlocked, so the agenda is likely to be handled when leaders gather at the formal reception and working dinner" that is scheduled for Thursday evening, said a summit spokesman, Kim Yoon-kyung.

A goal of the G-20, established in 1999, is to help coordinate economic policies among major economies.

A major issue confronting the G-20 is how to craft a new global economic order to replace one centered on the U.S. running huge trade deficits while countries such as China, Germany and Japan accumulate vast surpluses. The U.S. runs a trade deficit because it consumes more foreign products than it sells to others.

In a letter to fellow leaders at the G-20, Obama made it clear that the U.S. cannot remain the world's consumer, propping up others by borrowing and spending. He is pitching for a balanced recovery across the globe - tougher to achieve when national interests collide.

"The foundation for a strong and durable recovery will not materialize if American households stop saving and go back to spending based on borrowing," the president wrote.

The message was primarily aimed at China, whose trade surplus with the U.S. is bigger than with any other trading partner, including the European Union. The U.S. contends that China deliberately undervalues its currency, the yuan, which gives it is exports an unfair competitive edge.

Deficit targets: Social Security, mortgage breaks

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a politically incendiary plan, the bipartisan leaders of President Barack Obama's deficit commission proposed curbs in Social Security benefits, deep reductions in federal spending and higher taxes for millions of Americans Wednesday to stem a flood of red ink that they said threatens the nation's very future.

The White House responded coolly, some leading lawmakers less so to proposals that target government programs long considered all but sacred. Besides Social Security, Medicare spending would be curtailed. Tax breaks for many health care plans, too. And the Pentagon's budget, as well, in a plan designed to cut total deficits by as much as $4 trillion over the next decade.

The plan arrived exactly one week after elections that featured strong voter demands for economic change in Washington. But criticism was immediate from advocacy groups on the left and, to some extent, the right at the start of the post-election debate on painful steps necessary to rein in out-of-control deficits.

The plan would gradually increase the retirement age for full Social Security benefits—to 69 by 2075—and current recipients would receive smaller-than-anticipated annual increases. Equally controversial, it would eliminate the current tax deduction that homeowners receive for the interest they pay on their mortgages.

No one is expecting quick action on any of the plan's pieces. Proposed cuts to Social Security and Medicare are making liberals recoil. And conservative Republicans are having difficulty with options suggested for raising taxes. The plan also calls for cuts in farm subsidies, foreign aid and the Pentagon's budget.

The document was released by former Democrat Erskine Bowles, a former Clinton White House chief of staff, and Republican Alan Simpson, a former senator from Wyoming.

Acknowledging the controversy involved, Simpson quipped to reporters: "We'll both be in a witness protection program when this is all over, so look us up." Said Bowles: "This is a starting point."

Controversial or not, Bowles said serious action was demanded. He declared, "This debt is like a cancer that will truly destroy this country from within if we don't fix it."

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 16, 2010 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

Agenda

1. Call to order – quorum
2. Approval of minutes of September 24, 2010 meeting
3. Docket 09-3 – Telecommunications regulation.
   - Section 8421[c] review of Micronesian Telecommunication Corporation's [MTC] local rates.
   - MTC's direct inward dialing [DID] tariff.
   - Administrative Order–ETC Annual Certification Process.
4. Docket 10-1 – CUC Wastewater Division
   - Unmetered wastewater rates
5. Administrative business.
   - Administrative resolution
6. Other business.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Francisco L. Kaipat, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 21, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 26, 2001 under Document No. 01-268 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 128 D 51, (formerly known as part of Lot 018 D 57), containing an area of 620 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00 the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 99 as Document No. 99-2896 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on August 13, 2010. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Monday, November 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. **The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $61,691.00 the total amount due under the VA loan.**

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 8th day of October, 2010.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Motorola fires back at Microsoft with patent suit

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. (AP)—Motorola is returning fire in a legal battle with Microsoft, suing the software maker for infringing on 16 of its patents. Motorola said Wednesday that Microsoft's PC and server software, Windows mobile software and Xbox products infringe on its patents. The complaints were filed by its Motorola Mobility unit in the U.S. District Courts for the Southern District of Florida and the Western District of Wisconsin. Last month, Microsoft Corp. sued Motorola Inc. for infringing on its smart-phone patents. It also filed a claim with the International Trade Commission.

FCC opens inquiry into Google data collection

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Communications Commission is investigating whether Google Inc. broke the law by inadvertently sucking up fragments of e-mails, Internet passwords, Web surfing behavior and other online activities over public Wi-Fi networks while photographing neighborhoods for its "Street View" mapping feature. The probe by the FCC comes two weeks after the Federal Trade Commission concluded its own inquiry into the problem, which Google said it discovered following an investigation by German regulators. While the FTC criticized the search giant for collecting potentially sensitive information over unsecured wireless networks for several years before realizing it, the agency said it is satisfied that Google has taken adequate measures to improve its internal privacy controls. Those include privacy training for all 23,000 of the company's employees.

Fed to buy $105B worth of bonds in first phase

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve will buy a total of $105 billion worth of government bonds starting later this week as it launches a new program to invigorate the economy. The bonds will be purchased through a series of 18 operations that start on Friday and end on Dec. 9, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said Wednesday. The purchases are the first since the Fed announced last week that it will buy a total of $600 billion worth of Treasury bonds over the next eight months. The Fed will buy $75 billion of government debt as part of the new program. And, it will buy another $30 billion, using the proceeds from its vast mortgage portfolio.



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Nation

Democrats pressing Pelosi to step aside

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a fresh sign of turmoil among defeated Democrats, a growing number of the rank and file say they won't support House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a politically symbolic roll call when the new Congress meets in January.

"The reality is that she is politically toxic," said Illinois Rep. Mike Quigley, one of several Democrats who are trying to pressure Pelosi to step aside as her party's leader in the wake of historic election losses to Republicans last week.

Pelosi startled many Democrats with a quick postelection announcement that she would run for minority leader. She has yet to draw an opponent for the post.

Party elections are scheduled for next week, although a postponement is possible.

In the interim, Pelosi's critics have become more vocal in their efforts to retire her from the party leadership.

There's "starting to be a sense that this may not be as much of a done deal as people might have thought," Rep. Jason Altmire said of Pelosi's quest to remain the top Democrat.

"If enough people come out and voice a little discomfort with the idea of her continuing on, maybe she would reconsider," said the Pennsylvanian, one of a handful of Democrats who said he won't cast a ceremonial vote for her.

The election of a party leader occurs behind closed doors. A separate election for speaker to be held on Jan. 5, a few hours after the House convenes for the first time, is a very visible one. One member of each party is typically nominated, and each lawmaker is then called by name to stand and declare a choice. The event is customarily televised live.

Defections from party discipline are rare in such circumstances, but several Democrats said they would not support Pelosi. They did not specify how they would vote instead.

Despite the criticism, one prominent ally, Rep. George Miller of California, said Wednesday night that Pelosi enjoys the support of the "overwhelming number of members of the caucus" for a new term as party leader.

"There has always been in the caucus and there always will be in the caucus people who want to distance themselves from the leadership. That's not new. I think that's a very small percentage," Miller said.

Pelosi's spokesman, Brendan Daly, added that the speaker has strong support throughout the caucus and "is grateful for the confidence that her colleagues have placed in her to become House Democratic leader."

Most of the Democrats who say they would not support Pelosi are moderates from conservative districts who have toiled to distinguish themselves from their liberal leader, and who watched dozens of like-minded Democrats go down in defeat after Republicans savaged them in TV advertisements as lapdogs of the San Francisco congresswoman.

Quigley stopped short of saying he would oppose Pelosi on a public vote, but others did not.

"You would find an unusual number of people not voting for the nominee of their party" if Pelosi were the choice, said Rep. Jim Matheson of Utah.

"There's a growing number of people in the caucus saying, 'Why's she running for minority leader in the first place?' We just got thumped in this election in a major way, and to act like we can just go back and do the same thing over again. It just seems like a very obvious situation when change is called for," Matheson said.



AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., walks through Statuary Hall, on Capitol Hill in Washington Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, past the set up for the news conference for House Speaker-in-waiting John Boehner of Ohio.

Elizabeth Smart finishes Utah trial testimony

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Elizabeth Smart testified Wednesday that the street preacher accused of kidnapping her in 2002 frequently prayed that the teenager would fulfill her marital duty of having sex—something she said was "about the farthest thing" from her prayers.

Smart took the stand a third day and gave a spirited rejection of Brian David Mitchell's defense contention that he suffers from an escalating mental illness and holds extreme religious beliefs that lead him to think he is directed by God.

Mitchell was a crude, vulgar, self-serving person who used religion to justify his actions, including her kidnapping and rape over nine months, she said, calling him a hypocrite.



Smart

"He was his number one priority, followed by sex, drugs and alcohol, but he used religion in all of those aspects to justify everything," Smart said in a clear voice, confidently expressing her own religious knowledge.

"Nine months of living with him and seeing him proclaim that he was God's servant and called to do God's work and everything he did to me and my family is something that I know that God would not tell somebody to do," she said. "God would never tell someone to kidnap her at knifepoint from their bed, from her sister's side... never continue to rape her and sexually abuse her."

Smart finished her testimony Wednesday morning after about 30 minutes of cross-examination by a defense lawyer for Mitchell, who's accused of taking her from home knifepoint on June 5, 2002, when she was 14.

Passengers cheer as hobbled ship heads to Calif.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The food on the disabled cruise ship Carnival Splendor is cold and the lines to get it stretch for hours.

And with the pool and casinos closed and rooms pitch black and stuffy, the nearly 4,500 people and crew on board passed the time with live music, scavenger hunts and trivia contests as they are slowly towed to San Diego.

The bar is also open and offering free drinks.

Two tugboats were pulling the 952-foot ship back to the U.S. The journey could take at least until late Thursday.

The ship entered cell phone range on Wednesday and the crew set up a bank of eight Satellite phones, allowing passengers mostly cut off from communication since an engine fire disabled the vessel on Monday to finally reach loved ones—and provide the first details of the conditions on board.

Among them was David Zambrano, who phoned his employer, Denver TV station 9NEWS, and said people were trying to keep their spirits up by singing, socializing and playing cards.

Rooms in the interior of the ship were dark, and passengers propped open their doors to let in air and emergency lighting from the hallways, Zambrano said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Energy Star Rebate Program
(CNMI-EECBG-ARRA-ESRP)

Public Service Announcement

This is to inform ALL Applicants/Recipients of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Star Rebate Program that the following Retailers of qualified energy-efficient ENERGY STAR appliances are registered with the CNMI Energy Division Office as Participating Retailers and authorized to accept and process Appliance Rebate Vouchers issued by the CNMI Energy Division.

The following Registered Participating Retailers are:

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- Taro Sue Stores – Garapan
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- Advance Air-conditioning – Garapan
- Pacific Chang Hong Corporation – Koblerville

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the CNMI Energy Division Office at 670-664-4480/1 or fax at 670-664-4483 or email address at cnmienergy@gmail.com or you may visit our office located at House No. 1337, Ascencion Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday except legal holidays. On Friday, office will be open between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. except on every government payday week Friday, the office will be closed.

Thank You,

/s/ Thelma B. Inos
Director

ACROSS THE NATION

Ill. man pleads guilty to '04 murder of 3-year-old

JOLIET, Ill. (AP)—A convicted sex offender pleaded guilty Wednesday in the 2004 sexual assault and murder of a 3-year-old suburban Chicago girl whose father was wrongly accused in the crime. With the parents of Riley Fox sitting just a few feet away, Scott Eby said in a clear voice the word "guilty" six times—ensuring he will spend the rest of his life behind bars. In exchange for the 39-year-old's plea, prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty. The courtroom was packed with dozens of friends and family of Riley, many wearing pins with a photograph of the girl nicknamed "Riley-bugs" on them. The gallery was silent as Eby entered his plea, ending a six-year ordeal in the highly-publicized case.

Washington state bans alcoholic energy drinks

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—Retailers have a week to clear millions of dollars worth of alcoholic energy drinks from their shelves after state regulators banned them Wednesday, citing the hospitalization of nine dangerously drunk college students last month. The emergency ban, similar to those in Michigan, Utah and Oklahoma, takes effect Nov. 18. Washington's rule targets beer-based drinks that also feature caffeine, such as the malt-liquor energy drink Four Loko. Some universities also have banned boozy energy drinks from campus while the federal Food and Drug Administration reviews their safety, and U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called Wednesday for a ban in his state.

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Asia

Obama says no deal yet on SKorean trade agreement

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—In a stinging setback, the United States and South Korea failed to reach agreement on an elusive free-trade deal but will continue pressing for an accord in the weeks ahead, President Barack Obama said Thursday.

Obama had hoped to announce a deal on the long-stalled pact while in South Korea for meetings of the Group of 20 economic powers, but instead he will return home empty-handed.

"We have asked our teams to work tirelessly in the coming days and weeks to get this completed," Obama said at a joint news conference with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

"We don't want months to pass before we get this done," Obama said. "We want this to be done in a matter of weeks."

Prospects for reaching a deal seemed unlikely before Obama's meeting and subsequent appearance with his South Korean counterpart.

At issue is a pact to slash tariffs and other barriers to trade, one that was signed in 2007 when previous administrations were in power. It remains unratified by lawmakers in both countries, and trade between the nations has slipped. The U.S. wants the deal to address a trade imbalance and beef access to South Korea's market before submitting it to Congress.

On North Korea, Obama said the reclusive communist nation must show a "seriousness of purpose" before the U.S. will restart six-party talks aimed at curbing the country's drive to become a nuclear power. He said there would be "an appropriate time and place" to resume those negotiations, but offered no clarity on when that would be.

Earlier in the day in a speech marking America's Veterans Day, Obama condemned North Korea for continuing on "a path of confrontation and provocation" that he says deepens its isolation from the world and worsens the poverty of its people.

"We're not interested in just going through the motions with the same result," Obama said.

Obama said at the news conference with Lee that the world would be ready to assist North Korea if it takes the steps necessary for talks to resume, including setting an "irreversible" path toward ending its nuclear program.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

NMHC IFB 2010-018

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on **Monday, November 15, 2010, at 10:30 a.m.**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 9, 2010.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2010-018**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Friday, November 26, 2010**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Friday, November 26, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Friday, November 26, 2010**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Monday, December 6, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **Tuesday, December 7, 2010**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **Friday, November 26, 2010**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $5.05 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2010 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

ASIAN BRIEFS

Massacre witness: Philippine mayor shot 40 people

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A policeman who witnessed an election-related massacre of 57 people last year told a court Wednesday a former town mayor—the main suspect in the deaths—gunned down 40 victims as they pleaded for their lives. Senior Police Officer Rainier Ebus testified he saw former Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., the scion of the clan that was in control of southern Maguindanao province, shoot about 40 of the 57 victims after stopping their vehicles. Among the dead in the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre—the worst political killings in recent Philippine history—were at least 30 media workers accompanying supporters of Esmael Mangudadatu, a local politician running for governor. His rivals from the Ampatuan clan and militiamen under their command have been charged with murder. They have pleaded innocent. Ebus, testifying for the prosecution, said he was among police who accompanied Ampatuan and his gunmen to a village where they stopped a convoy of journalists and political supporters of Mangudadatu, who was challenging the Ampatuan clan for governorship.

Aung San Suu Kyi loses court battle

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi suffered her latest courtroom loss Thursday but close aides remained optimistic that she will soon be granted freedom from house arrest in the military-ruled country. The 65-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner is due to complete her sentence on Saturday, nearly a week after the country held elections that excluded Suu Kyi and were widely criticized as a sham. The junta has not confirmed that she will be set free but government officials have quietly said they are making "necessary security preparations" for this weekend. Suu Kyi already has stated that she may re-enter the political fray, saying through lawyers she would investigate allegations of fraud in the election once released, meaning she may run afoul of the government again soon.

World

Battle rages in slum, this time against a disease

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A wooden wheelbarrow is pushed to the high green gates of a slum hospital, carrying an unconscious woman, her lips white and cracked with dehydration. She is 22, and two days ago she was healthy.

The concrete passageway leading to the hospital is filled with victims of the cholera epidemic that has entered Haiti's capital. Three weeks after it was confirmed for the first time ever in the Caribbean nation, the waterborne sickness has claimed at least 643 lives, mostly in the countryside.

If Wednesday's traffic is any indication, cholera is growing fast in the seething slum of Cite Soleil and perhaps all of Port-au-Prince, a city of more than 2.5 million.

A taxi truck known as a "tap-tap," painted with green and yellow hearts, backs in to the hospital to unload an elderly woman. An unemployed father carries his limp daughter, wrapped in a yellow blanket.

Two-year-old Clercilia Regis had been sick since Sunday, when she lost control of her bowels during church and had to be carried out by her worried parents to their dark, one-room concrete home on a side street nearby.

Since the rumors of the sickness arrived in the capital they had taken their pastor's advice and mixed their water with bleach and some lime juice. Clercilia got sick anyway, but her father, Jedson Regis, says she didn't seem too bad off at first. Then came Tuesday.

"Last night around seven, the worst started," he said Wednesday. Clercilia was producing water at a terrifying rate. But at night in a lawless slum, he couldn't do anything.

When the sun broke, Regis put on a gray T-shirt reading "Turkey Run State Park, Indiana," and walked his daughter to Hospital Saint Catherine Laboure. Along the way he passed the canals that make perfect breeding grounds for the disease, green-brown soups of floating plastic bottles and human waste, with chickens pecking at the surface.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders and the health ministry have set up tents inside the hospital. The sick are lined up in beds with clear IV tubes in their arms. Those too weak to turn their bodies get beds with holes and buckets in the center.

WORLD BRIEFS

Letter: Mexican cartel offers to dissolve itself

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A letter purportedly signed by a major Mexican drug cartel offers to dissolve the gang if the government promises to protect citizens in the western state where it is based, authorities said Wednesday. Prosecutors said they couldn't immediately verify the letter's authenticity—or the offer's sincerity—but stressed the federal government does not negotiate with drug cartels. The one-page letter allegedly signed by "La Familia Michoacana" drug cartel was dropped in the streets of some mountain towns in the western state of Michoacan on Tuesday, according to the Michoacan bureau of the federal Attorney General's Office. It also showed up as a banner above an overpass and was sent as an e-mail to reporters. The missive claims La Familia wants to protect Michoacan and its residents and says the group will disband if federal police promise to act honestly and fight to the death to defend the state.

Thousands of UK students protest tuition fees hike

LONDON (AP)—Tens of thousands of students marched through London on Wednesday against plans to triple university tuition fees, and violence erupted as a minority battled police and trashed a building containing the headquarters of the governing Conservative Party. Organizers said 50,000 students, lecturers and supporters demonstrated against plans to raise the cost of studying at a university to 9,000 pounds ($14,000) a year—three times the current rate—in the largest street protest yet against the government's sweeping austerity measures. As the march passed a high-rise building that houses Conservative headquarters, some protesters smashed windows as others lit a bonfire of placards outside the building.

Salvador prison fire kills 16 inmates, injures 22

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—A fire tore through a prison north of El Salvador's capital Wednesday, killing at least 16 young inmates and injuring 22. Ten of the injured are listed in serious condition with burns, said Mauricio Ventura, director of the Rosales Hospital in the capital, San Salvador. The small prison in the city of Ilobasco held 96 inmates, 43 of whom were in the cell block affected by the fire. A final count of the inmates showed five were not injured. Most of the prisoners had served time in facilities for youthful offenders and were transferred to Ilobasco after they turned 18 to serve out any remaining sentences.

Off The Wall

Kids spot mountain lion 200 feet from bus stop

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—A group of children waiting for their school bus Wednesday morning got a shock when they spotted a mountain lion in a field just 200 feet from their stop along a rural route.

The bus driver and the children saw the wild animal at about the same time as the bus was pulling up to the stop south of Missoula, said Robert Mitchell, general manager of the bus company, Beach Transportation.

The driver quickly loaded the children, who were three or four students ranging between kindergarten and eighth grade, and radioed the company, which called 911, Mitchell said.

He declined to release the name of the driver, but praised him for his actions. The children did not appear to be in danger, and seemed "more excited than scared," Mitchell said.

Upon spotting the bus and the children in the near-darkness of the morning, the mountain lion walked in front of the bus, down the road and up a nearby mountain, said Mike Thompson, regional wildlife manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Thompson said mountain lions are common in that part of the Missoula valley, and that the animal's quick exit led him to conclude the animal was not habituated to humans and did not pose a threat to people.

"Those movements and that behavior by a lion is pretty common. What's unusual is for somebody to see it. They're pretty secretive," Thompson said.

The school district alerted the parents of about 15 students who live in the area that a mountain lion had been spotted. District officials encouraged the parents to wait for their children at their bus stops when they are dropped off after school.

The close encounter was a good example of why parents should always accompany their children to bus stops, Mitchell said, but added that the reality is that humans and animals in western Montana share the same space.

"There are wild animals all around us. You don't have to be five miles up Miller Creek Road to encounter mountain lions," he said.



CHRISTMAS TREE MISHAP AP

Akron city workers attempting to remove a large blue spruce from a yard for the downtown holiday display, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, in Akron, Ohio. The crane being used for the tree removal toppled over, injuring a worker and damaging the tree. On Tuesday, Nov. 9, the top of a different blue spruce pine snapped off as workers moved the tree. The city is now looking for a third Christmas tree to display.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Okla. sisters each record hole-in-1 in same round

EDMOND, Okla. (AP)—Two sisters on the Central Oklahoma golf team are celebrating holes-in-one recorded in the same round. Erica and Lindsey Bensch each pulled off the feat Tuesday during a round at KickingBird Golf Club. Erica Bensch, a junior, had the ace on the 124-yard No. 3 hole, using a gap wedge in windy conditions. Less than two hours later, freshman Lindsey Bensch knocked in an 8-iron on the 142-yard No. 11 hole. Erica Bensch shot a 1-under 69 while her sister finished with an even-par 70.

Cops: Woman harassed drivers by repeatedly braking

ABERDEEN, N.J. (AP)—Authorities accused a New Jersey woman of repeatedly harassing drivers on the Garden State Parkway by braking repeatedly, causing other motorists to tailgate. Karen Born, 52, was free on $27,500 bail, charged with harassment, falsely incriminating others and filing false reports to law enforcement. State Police Sgt. Brian Polite told the Asbury Park Press that state troopers issued a warrant for Born's arrest after 22 incidents of alleged harassment over the summer. Polite said Born would call police after the other driver pulled over and claim the other driver was harassing and stalking her. It was not clear whether Born had retained an attorney.

Florida Police: Teen burglar logs into MySpace

SUGARLOAF KEY, Fla. (AP)—Investigators say it wasn't difficult to find a teenager who broke into a Florida Keys home because he left a computer in the home logged onto his MySpace account. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office reported that 18-year-old was charged with burglary, theft and possession of burglary tools after Sunday night's break-in. Deputies said a caretaker for the Sugarloaf Key home reported the burglary. Deputies said they found empty soda and food containers, and some marijuana on a coffee table. They later found the teenager who said he broke into the home to get out of the unseasonably cold weather.

Oregon couple awaken, find naked man in closet

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)—A Corvallis couple woke Monday to find a naked stranger in their closet. Police said 21-year-old Nicholas Buekea snuck out of a friend's basement apartment, climbed around a locked door to access a staircase and made his way to a third-floor apartment. The Gazette Times reported the apartment's residents—who were not identified—found items out of place on Monday morning and Buekea, naked, inside their closet. Buekea struggled with one of the apartment's residents and fled. Police said a group of people found Buekea on Monday and gave him a pair of shorts. Buekea was found by police and taken to a local hospital, where he is being evaluated. The Benton County District Attorney's Office is reviewing potential charges against Buekea.

Pa. man lights joint to celebrate child's birth

UNIONTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Police said a new father faces drug charges because he lit up a marijuana joint, instead of a cigar, to celebrate his child's birth at a western Pennsylvania hospital. Police aren't identifying the man found smoking the pot in a designated smoking area of Uniontown Hospital Tuesday morning, but said he'll face marijuana possession charges. Uniontown police Sgt. Jonathan Grabiak told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that a nurse smelled the marijuana when she took a cigarette break in the same area, and a hospital security guard called police about 3:20 a.m. Grabiak says the man told him, "I'm having a baby and wanted to get a buzz" and then pulled a bag of marijuana from his shoe. The man was released to a family member and made to leave the hospital.

The eyes have it: Woman chased, bitten by raccoon

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—It started with "a pair of eyes." It ended with an Alameda woman screaming and her dog barking after a raccoon bit her, puncturing her leg. The Oakland Tribune reported 33-year-old Rachel Campos de Ivanov was walking her 20-pound Yorkshire terrier at about 11 p.m. Sunday when she spotted the eyes near a fence around a baseball diamond at Washington Park. Next thing she knew, a raccoon was walking toward them, then she saw four more descending from the trees. Campos de Ivanov tried to get away, but tripped. That's when one of the raccoons sunk its teeth into her leg as she tried to protect her face. She'll undergo rabies treatment for several weeks. Meantime, Alameda County Vector Control is investigating the attack—the seventh reported since June.

NY man looking for drugs calls 'Crime Stoppers'

CLARENCE, N.Y. (AP)—A New York man looking to buy drugs misdialed and got the sheriff's "Crime Stoppers" line instead. Erie County Sheriff's Detective Alan Rozansky said he got a call around noon on Monday and answered with his usual "Crime Stoppers." The caller apparently didn't hear that and told Rozansky he was looking "to score" drugs. Rozansky told WIVB-TV that he was surprised but played along and arranged a meeting with undercover officers. The officers didn't arrest the caller but used him as an informant to lead them to another transaction taking place down the road. There, police arrested a 35-year-old woman trying to sell her prescription painkillers to a Buffalo man. The careless caller is off the hook for now.



Science & Technology

'Artificial pancreas' for diabetes is testing well

By MARY BROPHY MARCUS
USA TODAY

ORLANDO, Fla.—Scientists are getting closer to offering an "artificial pancreas" to children and adults with type 1 diabetes that will help better control the swings of blood glucose that come with the disease.

Researchers working on artificial pancreas technology announced at this weekend's 70th Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association that the latest tests of the technology show it can be used in real-life scenarios with success, including after eating a large meal and drinking a glass of white wine.

"The rubber is finally starting to hit the road. We're seeing more and more studies telling us it can be done and it can be done safely," says Aaron Kowalski, research director of the Artificial Pancreas Project for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Kowalski says they believe the technology could be available within the next few years.

Artificial pancreas technology has three components:

■ A continuous glucose monitor, attached by a slender wire to the body, that measures blood glucose levels and the direction they are trending through the day, as opposed to pricking the finger and using test strips to get a single, snapshot blood sugar reading.

■ An insulin pump, also attached to the body, that doses insulin continuously at a low level and can be adjusted.

■ A sophisticated computer program that can help the two devices "talk" to each other and automate the process.

The first two technologies are already available. Researchers with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation have been testing the multi-component system in a range of in-clinic situations.

Earlier this year, in a study in *The Lancet*, they showed that the artificial pancreas technology could better control blood glucose levels during sleep and reduce the chance of hypoglycemia, or dangerously low blood sugar, in children with type 1.

In this weekend's presentation, researchers reported that the benefits remained when the system was tested in 12 adults, ages 18 to 65, who ate a large meal and drank a glass of white wine before bedtime.

"It was quite a large meal—a meal like you'd eat out at a restaurant with a glass of wine. It included over 100 grams of carbohydrates," says lead researcher Roman Hovorka, principal research associate at the University of Cambridge Metabolic Research Laboratories.

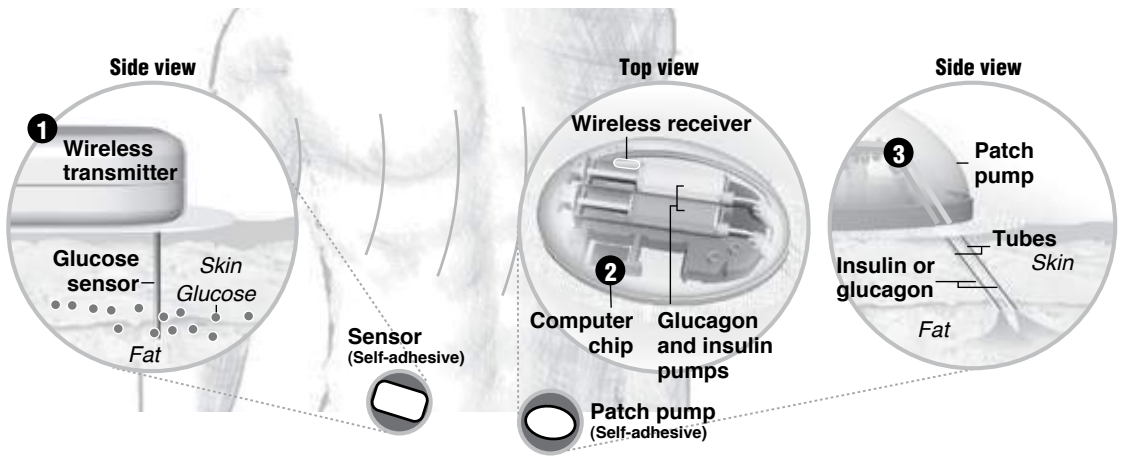
In the study, 70 percent of the time, participants were within their target blood glucose range, up from 47 percent when they didn't use the technology.

Even with this technology, you're still working backward, says endocrinologist Robert Rizza, executive dean of research at the Mayo Clinic. "It takes time for that insulin to be absorbed. Despite that fact, it's been working very well and helps avoid very high and very low blood sugars."

Artificial pancreas

The goal is not a replacement organ but a system that mimics how a pancreas secretes insulin and glucagon, hormones that regulate glucose (blood sugar). The system could replace the finger-prick blood tests and injections many diabetics now use — as often as a dozen times a day — with automatic dosage of insulin and glucagon.

How an artificial pancreas could work



1 Sensor measures glucose levels every five minutes, then transmits the data to the pump

2 The computer chip in the pump uses an algorithm to calculate whether insulin is needed to lower blood sugar or glucagon is needed to raise it*

3 Pump delivers the calculated dosage of insulin or glucagon to the body through small tubes

*Ultimately, the sensor, receiver, computer chip with algorithm and the pump will be one unit

Source: Steven Russell, Massachusetts General Hospital Diabetes Center, American Diabetes Assn.
Graphic: Tia Lai, Lorena Iñiguez Elebee, Los Angeles Times

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Google to give 10-percent raises to entire work force

NEW YORK (AP)—Google Inc. is showing it still knows how to make its employees feel special: It is giving all 23,300 of them 10 percent raises next year.

The Internet search leader also is shifting part of workers' annual bonuses into their regular paychecks, according to an internal memo sent Tuesday by Google CEO Eric Schmidt. Those bonuses won't count toward the 10 percent.

The planned raises, earlier reported by the technology blog Silicon Alley Insider, were confirmed Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Google has long been known for feeding its workers free food and pampering them with other perquisites that would be considered luxuries by most employees.

But the company began taking away some of the goodies in late 2008 and early 2009. It went so far as to lay off a few hundred people to help boost its earnings during the depth of the worst U.S recession since World War II.

The good times are back at Google this year, though. Revenue rose 23 percent to $21 billion through the first nine months of 2010. Confident of even more prosperity ahead, Google has added 3,500 employees so far this year to expand its work force by nearly 20 percent. It also has been spending heavily on acquisitions and investments in the data centers that run its online services.

The raises are yet another sign of Google's bullishness. The company didn't disclose how much the added payroll would cost, but assuming an average employee salary of $100,000—not outlandish by high-tech standards- the across-the-board raises would amount to an additional $233 million annually.

Google can easily afford that, with $33 billion in cash as of Sept. 30.

Schmidt framed the raises as a way to reward "the best employees in the world," but the largess also may be part of a strategy to slow defections to up-and-coming Internet rivals, such as Facebook. The rapidly growing online hangout has become more aggressive about recruiting Google workers since it hired one of Google's top sales executives, Sheryl Sandberg, as its president two-and-half years ago.

"While we don't typically comment on internal matters, we do believe that competitive compensation plans are important to the future of the company," Google spokesman Jordan Newman said in a Wednesday statement.

OFFICE USERS

Word: Popup calendar

By TRICIA GOSS
OFFICEUSERS.ORG

Entering a date into a Word document seems like a simple enough task. Unless, that is, you know you need to enter the date of the third Thursday in November. You could always pull up the calendar of your Windows taskbar clock, or pull down your paper calendar off the wall and scan through the pages, right? Sure, you could, but why would you when you can quickly pick from a popup calendar directly in Word?

If you are using Word 2007 or Word 2010, you will need to show the Developer tab of the ribbon. To do so in Word 2007, click the Office Button and then click Word Options. Choose the Popular tab and select Show Developer Tab in the Ribbon. In Word 2010, go to the File tab and click on Options. Go to the Customize Ribbon tab. In the Customize the Ribbon list under Main Tabs, select the Developer check box.

Once you have the Developer tab visible, the rest is easy. Whenever you need to insert a date and you need to look at a calendar, just place your cursor in the spot where you want it, go to the Developer tab and click the Date Picker Content Control button in the Controls group. A control will appear on your document. Click the drop-down arrow on the end and a calendar will pop up. You can scroll backward and forward through the months and years, and then simply click on the date you want to enter.

Also, if you want to change properties of the calendar or the way the date is displayed, simply click on the Date Picker Content Control button and then click on Properties to make all of your desired changes.

Of course, I don't want those of you using Word 2003 to feel left out! There is a free popup calendar add-in that you can download from Microsoft Office Marketplace that does pretty much the same thing. Check it out at http://www.officeusers.org/url/8002.

Unfamiliar e-mail could be sign of malware

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I recently found some pictures and e-mails in my files that I don't recognize, some of them pornographic.

This comes about three months after I had to cancel two credit cards that were used fraudulently.

Is it possible for someone to enter my computer and try to assume my identity? I change my passwords every few months.—Bruce Everhart, Banner Elk, N.C.

ANSWER: I think someone online has taken control of your PC and is using it to relay pornographic spam, probably to disguise the original source.

If that's the case, your credit card numbers could have been stolen if you typed them on the PC while shopping online.

To fix your PC, start your computer in Windows "Safe Mode," which allows only a few trusted programs to run.

To do that, turn off your PC, then turn it on and press the F8 key several times until you get a black-and-white screen that says "Advanced Boot Options." Use the arrow key to highlight "Safe Mode with Networking" and press the "Enter" key.

Now download and install the Malwarebytes program (malwarebytes.org), and run the update portion so you have the latest list of online threats.

Then restart your PC, and use the F8 key to reach Advanced Boot Options, then Safe Mode with Networking. Run a full PC scan with Malwarebytes, and when it's complete choose "remove selected."

Next, make sure your firewall and antivirus software is up to date. Then wait and see how your PC behaves.

If you have more problems, try running a "Registry cleaner" program that will scrub remnants of malicious software from the PC's Registry, a database of settings. Registry-cleaner programs, some free, can be found at http://tinyurl.com/ydehzg2/.

■■■

Q: I recently upgraded my Windows Messenger software to the 2011 release, and now I can't make video calls to my daughter. I'm using Windows 7. What can I do?—Ed Boldt, Ottawa

A: I suspect your daughter is using an earlier version of Windows Live Messenger that is only marginally compatible with the new Messenger 2011.

If her PC also has Windows 7, ask her to upgrade to Messenger 2011 (http://tinyurl.com/2fswsyb/) as you did, and you should be able to make video calls to her.

If her PC uses Windows XP or Vista, you should both use an earlier version of Messenger that runs on all three operating systems. Find it at http://tinyurl.com/24f2vwv/.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

Dong Bei Trek 5: Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



AP

Our trekker stands on a foggy day in May before a deserted Beijing Olympics site just north of the famous Nest as a lone guard stands at attention across the road; inset is the current logo of the Guangzhou Asian Games.

Strong winds, thunder and lightning, damp and frozen, wet and cold, are scheduled to hit *Dong Bei* China today while sunny and blue skies in Guangzhou are expected at the opening of the Asian Games later this evening. There are 28 Olympic events in the Games plus 14 more, including wushu, Chinese martial arts better known in the West as kung fu but also includes the Japanese judo, and the Korean taekwondo.

We are partial to the *Tai-chi Chuan* at the *Shi Li Da Gong Yuen,* the park by the Buddhist pagoda in the Huanggu District of Shenyang. NMC instructor Wicksman would be at home in my present neighborhood with the graceful elderly I join in the morning at the park!

One of the symbolic and practical "one people, one nation" characters of China is the fact that the country operates out of one time zone from Tibet to Yanbian, Hainan to Urumqi. It also means that an event in one part, with the advance in communication and transport, becomes an event all throughout.

I remember being in Pudong, Shanghai prior to the August Olympic Games Beijing 2008 and not too long after the May Sichuan earthquakes. Shanghai's efforts to prepare for its Global Expo held this year was put on hold as last minute finessing of the Beijing sites went on full swing. We all witnessed the flawless unraveling of the Olympics, followed a year later with the understated but pride-filled 60th anniversary of PRC. China as the Middle Kingdom was in its elements.

The same year, on the first anniversary of the Sichuan earthquake, the nation celebrated its national joint efforts to resuscitate and transform the quake sites, with internal assistance outnumbering external ones, even of overseas Chinese groups.

This one-people, one-nation attitude was evident in the launching and running of the Shanghai Expo this year, ending last month. We were going to go through Shanghai on our way to *Dong Bei* but the event was so popular that public attendance was at a premium, making it difficult to attend more than one exhibit a day. There were more than 200 exhibits, and the prohibitive cost of urban Shanghai would have been too much for our limited RMB supply were we to stay the week. The Expo exceeded its 70 million expected visitors who crossed the till, and its popularity will be extended through its website, a gift of the new technology that the Expo itself promoted.

The green ambience that the Expo supported is carried over to the operations of the Asian Games in Guangzhou 2010. With co-host cities Foshan (heart of the Pearl Delta centrally adjacent to HK, Macau and Guangzhou, sporting a statue of Bruce Lee, home to the closing ceremony venue Lingnan Pearl Gymnasium), Dongguan (northeast close of metro Shenzhen and hosting indoor sports), and Shanwei (on the coast hosting water sports), all in Guangdong Province, the whole Games themed "thrilling games, harmonious Asia" is ecologically-conscious in every respect, from transport to housing. That is probably what is so intriguing about the new China economy in its espousing ahead of everyone else environmentally-friendly practices. Water and its use is a sub-theme in Guangzhou.

Nothing would be more ironic than having this theme in the province famous for its *laissez faire* attitude to providing the world with any manufactured goods at the lowest cost and without regard to environmental impact. Diseases from commercially raised fowl and fish have all flourished out of this province, and the chemical and metallurgical pollution is a nightmare. Shenzhen's unfettered support of free trade zone capitalism has built a modern city and urban society in a hurry, combining the sleekness of a super-bullet train and the worst features of bonded servitude, spawning a wealth gap rivaled only by the embarrassing current state of American wealth distribution.

But the Games does put into the global stage the emergent China after Mao Zedong and the flowering of the era of Deng Xiao Ping. Coupled with a rather amiable and magnanimously collaborative Hu Jin Tao at the helm and we have a working journey into hope while the prophet of the Courage of Hope in Washington gets battered by the resurgent forces of "can't and won'ts"—progeny of those who sent native Mongolians into reservations and concentration camps and kept West African descendents as slaves.

Still, modern China looks at the United States as a model of things to learn and unlearn. It is unfortunate that the United States does not return the favor and more systematically appropriate the wisdom of its native Americans and the new immigrants of its West Coast from the East to provide a balance from its traditional Eurocentric dialectics that has rent the nation into warring camps.

Our *Dong Bei trekking* takes us into planetary space, and also into the games of the new global mind. Let Guangzhou 2010 begin.

Bush memoir sells 220,000 copies on first day

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President George W. Bush's memoir "Decision Points" sold at least 220,000 copies through its first day of release, with more than 20 percent generated by e-book purchases.

Random House Inc. announced Wednesday that opening-day sales, which include preorders and represent 95 percent of accounts reporting, was the publisher's highest for nonfiction since former President Clinton's "My Life" debuted with 400,000 in 2004. Bush's book came out Tuesday with an announced first printing of 1.5 million copies, the same as Clinton's did.

Random House said that e-sales were 50,000 so far, a number unthinkable when "My Life" was published.

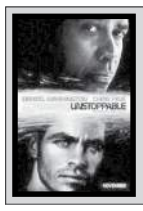
"It shows the digital market's rapid growth," said spokesman David Drake of the Crown Publishing Group, a Random House division.

Bush has been actively promoting the book, giving interviews to Matt Lauer, Oprah Winfrey and Sean Hannity among others. On Wednesday, he spoke live with Lauer on NBC's "Today" show and was scheduled Wednesday night to attend the 27th annual Teen Challenge Banquet at the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee. On Thursday, he will address a breakfast gathering of the Union League Club of Chicago and will speak at a Veteran's Day tribute at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, in Dayton, Ohio.

Reviews so far for "Decision Points" have been mixed, as they were for "My Life" and for virtually all presidential memoirs. The Wall Street Journal's Daniel Henninger wrote that Bush's book "contains delightful and telling personal observations," while Jonathan Yardley of The Washington Post found "Decision Points" to be "competent, readable and flat."

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Skyline
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10
Donald Faison, Eric Balfour
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A series of blindingly bright lights appear all over Los Angeles, mesmerizing the citizens of the city while luring them to an uncertain fate in this sci-fi thriller from sibling filmmakers Greg and Colin Strause. As speculation regarding the origin of the mysterious lights runs rampant, a Los Angeles entrepreneur (Donald Faison), his best friend, Jarrod (Eric Balfour), and Jarrod's frightened girlfriend (Scottie Thompson) struggle to resist temptation as they seek out the source of the luminous threat.


Unstoppable
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
Action • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Denzel Washington and Star Trek's Chris Pine star in this action thriller from director Tony Scott. The plot surrounds two locomotive operators who team up to stop a runaway train filled with explosives. Live Free or Die Hard's Mark Bomback provides the script for the 20th Century Fox production, co-starring Rosario Dawson.


Megamind
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Will Farrell, Tina Fey
Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG
Synopsis
DreamWorks Animation presents this satirical take on the superhero genre focusing on a down-and-out super villain who has to learn how to get his groove back when he's left without an arch nemesis in this comedy from directors Cameron Hood and Kyle Jefferson.


Due Date
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20
Robert Downey, Jr., Zach Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R


The Social Network
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Timberlake
Drama • Rated PG 13


Paranormal Activity 2
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Thriller • Rated R


Red
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman
Thriller, Action • Rated PG 13

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Brad Paisley takes CMA entertainer of the year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Country Music Association Awards were Miranda Lambert's and Blake Shelton's party, but Brad Paisley crashed the festivities.

Lambert won three awards, including album of the year, on her 27th birthday and her fiance Shelton grabbed two. But an emotional Paisley, a young gun who's grown up in front of everyone's eyes, walked away with the coveted entertainer of the year award after five years of waiting.

"My hero Little Jimmy Dickens has a saying, that is if you see a turtle on a fencepost it had help getting up there and I'm the turtle on the fencepost at this point," Paisley said.

Country's "it" couple this year after their spring engagement, Lambert and Shelton cleaned up while winning their first CMA awards. Lambert won female vocalist of the year, album of the year for "Revolution" and video of the year for "The House That Built Me," which also scored song of the year for songwriters Tom Douglas and Allan Shamblin.

And Shelton won music event of the year for "Hillbilly Bone" with Trace Adkins before ending Brad Paisley's string of three straight male vocalist awards.

The reaction around their night was festive.

"Ooooh, shake it up CMA," Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles said as she watched Shelton on his way to the stage after winning male vocalist.

And Paisley, who hosted the show with Carrie Underwood, joked: "After the night that Blake and Miranda are having, I think we can expect a baby in about nine months."



AP

Brad Paisley, left, accepts the Entertainer of the Year Award as Carrie Underwood looks on at the 44th Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

Lambert was the center of the show in many ways. She led all nominees with nine, performed "That's The Way That the World Goes Round" and joined Loretta Lynn and Sheryl Crow for a rendition of Lynn's classic "Coal Miner's Daughter."

Lynn handed her the female vocalist trophy.

"I'm proud that I can now call her a friend," she said before turning to Lynn. Thank you so much," she said as she started to cry, "Thank you for everything you've done." She then shouted, "Thank you, Reba," and waved at an emotional Reba McEntire.

A few minutes later during a backstage interview, Lynn hailed Lambert: "Nobody in country music is more country than Miranda."

Shelton, who has long felt like an outsider in Nashville, gave Lambert a bear hug after his name was announced for male vocalist. He then stomped on each step as he walked up to the stage. McEntire, wife of Shelton's manager, Narvel Blackstock, openly cried as Shelton made his way to the stage.

"It's about 34 years worth of steps right there for me, y'all," Shelton said. "This is a really big deal for me."

Hailed by critics and musicians as the best album of the year, "Revolution" completed a sweep of major country music awards Lambert's 27th birthday.

"'Revolution' truly has caused a revolution in my life this year," Lambert said.

Lambert has been front and center in Nashville since appearing on "Nashville Star" in 2003, finishing third, and her previous albums "Kerosene" and "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" were well received. But "Revolution," released in September 2009, took her to a different level of the atmosphere.

She landed her first No. 1 songs, "White Liar" and "The House That Built Me," took three trophies at The Academy of Country Music Awards in April, including album of the year, and recently reached 1 million in sales.

The album is a lot like Lambert - sassy, refreshingly honest, and a heck of a good time. Critics loved the CD, but so did her fellow musicians. That led to a record for the most nominations for a woman in the 44-year history of the CMAs and the second most overall. Both of her No. 1 hits were nominated in two categories, song and single of the year.

Lady Antebellum had nothing to be blue about, riding their hit "Need You Now" to wins for single of the year and vocal group. The hit song about late-night hookups helped Lady A sell 3 million albums so far this year.

"Thank you to my brother, Josh Kelley, for making me to move to Nashville six years ago, I love you," Lady A vocalist Charles Kelley said after his band took single of the year.

Jolie talks kids, home life and Brad in Vogue

NEW YORK (AP)—Angelina Jolie says her 6-year-old son Pax is a better cook than she is.

The actress opens up about her home life, including Pax's culinary skills, in the December issue of Vogue magazine.

In the article, readers get a glimpse inside the Jolie-Pitt household with its six kids, bulldog named Jacques and nannies who speak Vietnamese to Pax and Cambodian to Maddox.

Jolie says she feels her oldest son Maddox, now 9, almost raised her in a way. She adopted him in 2001. Maddox seems aware of his mother's feelings. He encourages her when she cooks breakfast, saying "Good job!"

She also talks about daughter Shiloh, who recently found a dead bird and wanted to keep it for a pet. Jolie's answer: find a bird from a taxidermist instead.

Jolie shares some of those "every mom" struggles that parents everywhere can identify with. She and longtime partner Brad Pitt make sure one of them is always home with the kids while the other is working.

What makes Jolie different, of course, is the paparazzi follows wherever she and Pitt go.

She's chosen to navigate Hollywood her way, without an agent or a publicist—which is rare—especially for an A-list actress.

As for Pitt, Jolie addresses him as "extremely handsome and the most sexy," but feels most in love when she sees him with their six kids.

The December issue of Vogue hits newsstands nationwide on Nov. 23.

Mel Gibson, ex, in LA court for custody hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson appeared in court Wednesday for the first time for a custody hearing involving his infant daughter with an estranged ex-girlfriend.

The Academy Award winner arrived for the all-day session about 10 minutes before Russian musician Oksana Grigorieva at a downtown Los Angeles courthouse, escorted by deputies. He remained out of sight during a lengthy morning break, but walked calmly through the courthouse with his attorneys to and from a luncheon strategy session.

Gibson did not speak to the group of reporters convened outside Judge Scott Gordon's closely guarded courtroom. By law, the custody proceedings are closed to the public and the case file is sealed.

At least part of Wednesday's session was spent addressing the release of information about the case, but attorneys for both sides declined to comment in detail about what occurred. They are scheduled to reconvene Nov. 22.

"We're not going to talk out of respect for the nature of the proceedings," Grigorieva's attorney, Daniel Horowitz said.

Gordon has convened several hearings in the case and ruled last month that sheriff's detectives should have unfettered access to information obtained from Grigorieva's computer. The department is investigating claims by Gibson that his ex-girlfriend attempted to extort him after their breakup.

Detectives also looked into allegations by Grigorieva that the actor-director abused her during a fight in January, although she waited months to report the incident. Potential evidence in that inquiry has been turned over to prosecutors, but no charges have been filed.

Gibson's divorce from his wife of 28 years is still pending.

Book defending pedophilia for sale on Amazon

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is selling a self-published book defending pedophiles, sparking discussions about the retailer's obligation to vet items before they are sold in its online stores.

The book, "The Pedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure: a Child-lover's Code of Conduct" by Philip R. Greaves II, offers advice to pedophiles afraid of becoming the center of retaliation. It is an electronic book available for Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle e-reader.

The book has triggered mounting outrage on Twitter and beyond. A chorus of Twitter users is calling for Amazon to pull the book, with a few threatening to boycott the Kindle store until it does.

Amazon did not immediately respond to an inquiry about whether and how it vet books sold in its store.

Family dreads repeating last year's vegan thanksgiving

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEARABBY: Last year for Thanksgiving, I made a special effort to get the entire family together for the traditional meal. All 13 of us met at my mother's home and everyone was to bring a dish or two to share.

One of my brothers has two college-age daughters. Both are vegan, and he insisted that all the dishes we brought be vegan! I did it, but I resented it because I felt that two out of 13 people should not decide the menu. If they wanted vegan dishes, they should bring something for themselves, while the rest of us brought what we wanted.

My brother and nieces are now asking what we're doing this year for Thanksgiving. Frankly, I don't want to go through that again. Am I wrong in thinking everyone should not bend over backward for the vegan meal? I don't mind some of the menu accommodating them, but I don't think the whole dinner should be altered.

TURKEY EATER IN TEXAS

DEAR TURKEY EATER: Neither do I. And the response you should give your brother (and his daughters) is that you'll be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner this year, so they can either bring something they will enjoy or make other plans.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I read your column every day and find it interesting and useful. Many of the writers have the same emotions and problems as I do. I'm always pleased to see that I am not too far off.

I am a woman who married for the second time after 54 years of marriage. I was 71 and had been a widow for only one year. I had married my late husband at 16, and thought I could not live alone.

Do you have any words of wisdom for someone such as myself? Older people are so set in their ways that blending is so very difficult.

HAVING TROUBLE IN FLORIDA

DEAR HAVING TROUBLE: If you remarried only because you were afraid of living alone, then you did it for the wrong reason. There are worse things than living alone—and one of them is being married to a person who is unwilling to compromise. The keys to a successful union are affection, communication, respect and compromise. If both parties sincerely care about and respect each other, the union will be successful and lasting.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife recently attended her 35th high school reunion alone. Her high school sweetheart was there, and they talked and exchanged e-mail addresses. As the night wore on, he started making advances and my wife rebuffed him somewhat rudely. Three days later, she e-mailed him an apology and they started an eight-week exchange.

I suspected something was wrong and checked her e-mails, where I discovered some pretty torrid messages and a dinner meeting being planned. When I confronted my wife, she denied everything -- until I gave her copies of the e-mails. She says they never met, but I say the intent was there. To me, this is the same as a physical affair. She disagrees. Who is right?

DECEIVED IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DECEIVED: You are. The only thing that prevented things from proceeding further was the fact that you intervened. And if your wife had been proud of what she was doing she wouldn't have lied to you.

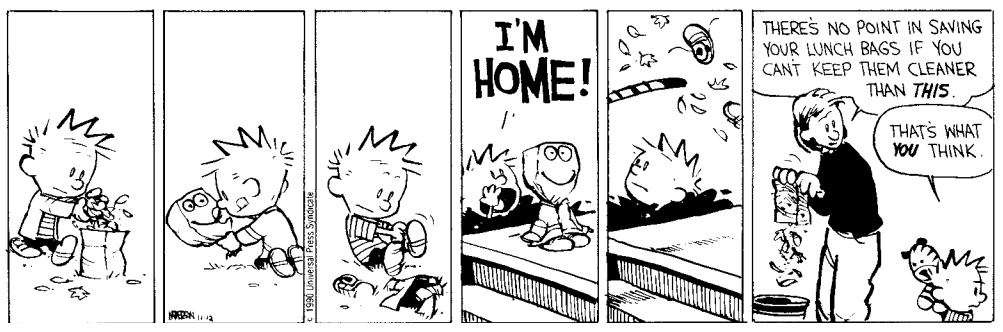
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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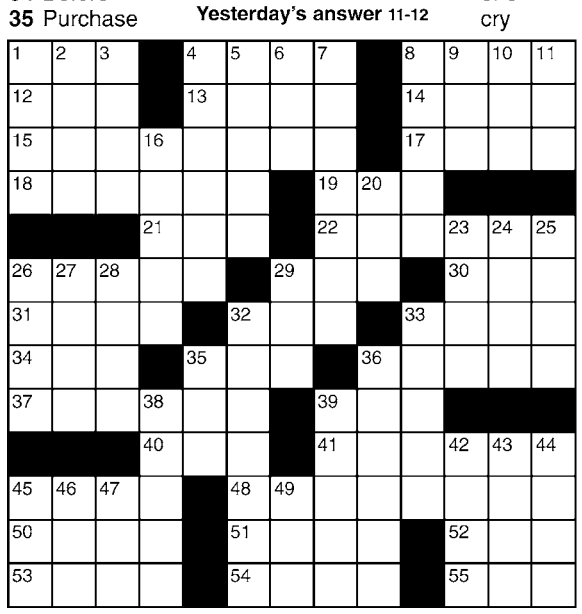
ACROSS
1 Broom closet item
4 Radar screen noise
8 Campus area, for short
12 Big bother
13 Green land
14 Incite
15 Humongous
17 Carbon compound
18 Poor substitute
19 Under the weather
21 Youngster
22 Massachusetts, long ago
26 Harridan
29 Send quickly
30 Princess' insomnia cause
31 Equal
32 Fellows
33 Desirable engine sound
34 Before
35 Purchase
36 Bad lighting?
37 Rainbow selection
39 Judge Lance
40 — tai
41 Tailor's tool
45 Pump, e.g.
48 South American nation
50 Undesirable engine sound
51 Throat clearer
52 Wapiti
53 On the briny
54 Misplace
55 Ball-bearing item

DOWN
1 Spiked club
2 Stench
3 D.C. bigwigs
4 Give
5 "Hungaria" composer
6 401(k) alternative
7 Louisiana bird
8 Pacify
9 Grecian vessel
10 Past
11 Md. neighbor
16 Western
20 Bagel topping
23 Numbered composition
24 Pianist Peter
25 Tall tale
26 Detail, for short
27 Long lunch?
28 Film holder
29 "30 Rock" cast member
32 Broadway offering
33 Introductory matter
35 Auto-front protector
36 In
38 Last letter
39 "Rizzoli & —"
42 Help shadily
43 Anger
44 Benefit
45 Masseur's workplace
46 Part of H.R.H, sometimes
47 Indivisible
49 Discoverer's cry

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	P	A	T	■	C	H	E	Z	■	P	H	I
E	U	R	O	■	H	I	R	E	■	R	A	T
P	R	I	N	C	I	P	A	L	■	I	R	E
T	R	A	G	I	C	■	■	D	E	N	I	M
■	■	■	U	S	■	D	E	A	L	T	■	■
P	O	P	E	■	L	E	D	■	F	O	O	T
A	I	R	■	■	A	V	E	■	■	U	R	N
S	L	I	M	■	M	I	N	■	S	T	E	T
■	■	N	A	T	A	L	■	A	T	■	■	■
S	A	C	C	O	■	■	G	R	E	A	S	E
O	W	E	■	P	R	I	N	T	E	M	P	S
D	E	S	■	A	U	R	A	■	L	O	A	M
A	D	S	■	Z	E	S	T	■	S	I	N	E

Yesterday's answer 11-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anne Hathaway, 28; Ryan Gosling, 30; Sammy Sosa, 42; Megan Mullally, 52

Happy Birthday: The sky is the limit if you are receptive to what's being offered. Change is upon you but it will only turn out the way you want if you put in the effort, time and dedication. There is no time to weigh what you should and shouldn't do. Take action by responding to every opportunity that heads your way. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 25, 34, 39, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Compromise, but in doing so, be sure your negotiations leave room for you to manage your expenses. There is money to be made if you utilize all the resources you have and come up with a workable arrangement for everyone involved. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't trust everyone with your personal information. A partnership can work if you are both on the same page. It isn't likely you'll be able to work with someone in whom you have an emotional interest. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Focus on what you want and how to get it. Don't delay. By working alongside someone as enthusiastic as you, achievements beyond your expectations can be made. Help will be offered by the most unexpected source. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A serious attitude about money will help you to stick to your budget, even if you are being enticed to spend more on entertainment or an investment. Taking an innovative approach to a hobby or an activity you participate in will lead to an interesting proposition. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Chill out and plan to have some fun. Love is on the rise and a promise will be made regarding an emotional situation. Making some changes to your home or lifestyle will be pleasing and will benefit you in many ways. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get out with friends. You need to avoid people who criticize and nag and embrace those who get what you are trying to accomplish. An idea you have can turn into a moneymaking venture with the right input from someone with experience. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): An emotional quest for change will lead to an interesting alternative to the way you've been living. Keep all avenues open until you have viewed every possibility available. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Hard work will pay off and underhandedness will work against you. You can strive to reach your goals and push others to follow suit, but in the end it will be your contribution that brings you the greatest advancement. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Resurrect old ideas or goals. You will have the discipline to see matters through. Love is on the rise and events will develop between you and someone you've known for some time. A residential change may be necessary. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Sign up for a course or spend time with a mentor who will help you polish what you have to offer. Recognition and success are within reach. A geographical move will enhance your chances. Open your mind to the possibilities. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take care of legal, financial or contractual matters and you will win. There is a chance you will come into cash or a gift. Your ability to communicate effectively will bring about favors and opportunities that can change your current situation. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone will criticize you if you fall short or don't come through with a promise you made. Pushing someone who isn't ready to reveal the information you want will not help matters. Bide your time and offer assistance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have insight and stamina and can pull off whatever you set your mind to. You are inventive, courageous and quick to pull things together in order to move ahead.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5				7		
2		1						
		9			7		2	3
	4			6				1
	5						7	
7				5			6	
5	9		2			4		
						8		7
		3				1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	3	2	5	8	6	9	4	7
4	6	9	7	2	3	5	1	8
5	8	7	9	4	1	6	2	3
7	5	6	1	9	4	8	3	2
2	1	3	8	7	5	4	6	9
8	9	4	6	3	2	1	7	5
9	7	1	3	6	8	2	5	4
3	4	5	2	1	9	7	8	6
6	2	8	4	5	7	3	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'THE OFFICE' (TV SERIES) **Solution: 10 letters**

M	I	C	H	A	E	L	N	O	S	N	I	V	E	L
O	A	D	N	I	E	T	S	R	E	B	E	I	L	D
C	K	U	S	C	R	I	P	T	A	E	V	E	T	S
K	E	N	O	L	A	M	E	F	R	K	R	O	W	I
U	V	D	P	I	K	S	N	I	S	A	R	K	R	A
M	I	E	C	N	A	V	N	S	C	T	I	A	E	V
E	N	R	S	L	U	R	S	C	S	S	C	N	C	R
N	I	N	E	R	E	H	Y	H	B	S	H	G	N	E
T	E	A	I	P	A	N	L	E	O	O	A	E	A	G
A	L	C	M	L	A	T	V	R	J	B	R	L	M	R
R	K	E	P	P	F	P	A	E	R	A	D	A	O	I
Y	K	E	M	U	Ⓖ	F	N	L	A	P	I	N	R	A
I	R	O	N	O	Ⓝ	N	I	N	A	M	N	E	D	F
T	C	N	F	L	Ⓐ	X	A	M	A	R	T	I	N	F
N	Y	S	T	U	Ⓖ	N	I	T	N	U	O	C	C	A

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Yesterday's Answer: Navigate

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480.

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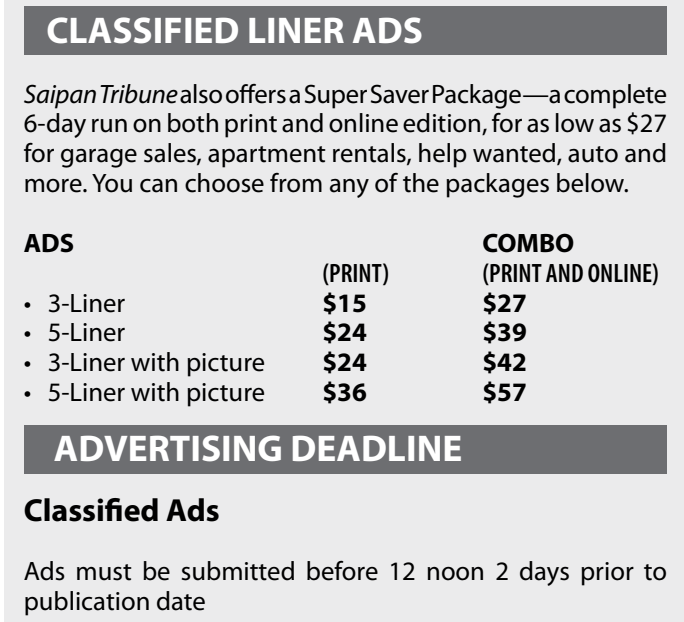
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Attorney for Plaintiff NKA: Monique Kramer:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MONIQUE MILES nka: MONIQUE KRAMER, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **NNAMDI A. MILES,** **Defendant.**	**FCD-DI Civil Action No. 07-0104B** **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN ORDER IN AID OF JUDGMENT FOR NON-PAYMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Plaintiff's Motion for Order in Aid of Judgment for non-payment of child support in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of October, 2010.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

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Moss says he hopes he fits into Titans' offense

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Randy Moss says he's sorry things didn't work out with in Minnesota and that he isn't upset with the Vikings or coach Brad Childress for waiving him. The well-traveled receiver insists he isn't in town—his third NFL city this season—to start trouble.

Moss spoke Wednesday for the first time since Minnesota waived him Nov. 1. Wednesday was also Moss' second practice with the Titans, the only NFL team to put in a claim for the player with 153 career touchdown catches.

"I made Minnesota my home. I loved being there, and it just didn't work out," Moss said. "Just I had my own beliefs in what I believe, and coach had his. Am I bitter or mad that he let me go or the organization? No. You never know what the future holds. Right now I'm a Tennessee Titan. I'm here to do whatever coach (Jeff) Fisher wants me to do."

Moss began his media session with a statement, but did take four questions—the entire exchange lasted 3 minutes, 4 seconds. Two questions concerned what effort the Titans can expect from him play to play. Moss asked the reporter what he expected from him, and the reporter said he didn't know what to expect.

"I don't know what to expect neither," Moss said.

It was a change for Moss, who blew off the media in Minnesota several times and drew a $25,000 fine from the NFL. He last spoke publicly Oct. 31 after his last game with the Vikings, a 28-18 loss to New England. He refused to take questions, instead going on a bizarre rant gushing about the Patriots and coach Bill Belichick and criticizing Vikings coaching.

Childress told his players the next day Moss was being waived, and the team actually put him on waivers a day later on Nov. 2. Tennessee claimed him 24 hours later.

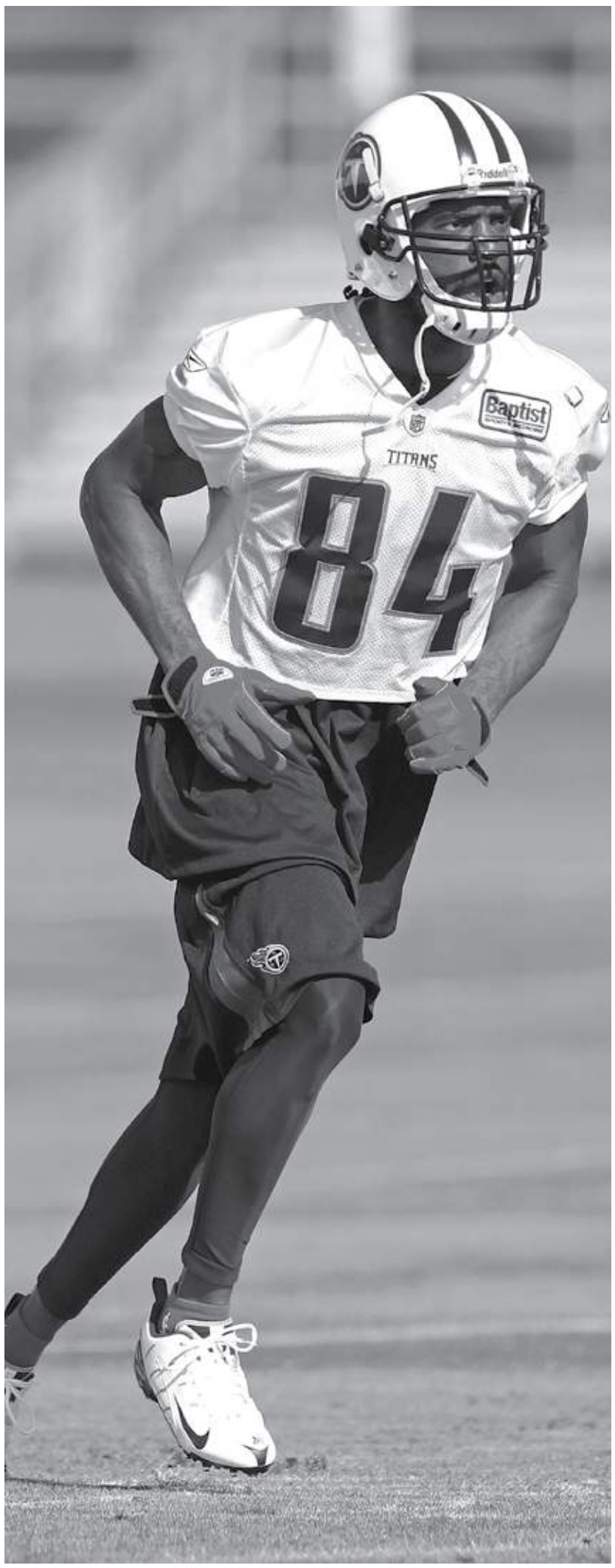
Moss began his statement Wednesday telling his family that everything was going well with him—though his family was not in attendance.

"I've been through a lot in the last couple of weeks," Moss said. "Like I said, I've got these broad shoulders. I can carry a lot of weight. I feel good about the acquisition of coach Fisher getting me here. The process of getting here has been kind of crazy."

That it has, and it's why Moss can become the first player in NFL history to catch a touchdown pass with three different teams in a single season with his first TD reception for Tennessee. The 13-year veteran started the season with New England before the Patriots traded him to Minnesota on Oct. 6 only to be waived less than a month later.

"I said it before, I didn't want to go to Minnesota and mess anything up," Moss said. "I guess everybody blamed me for it. I'm going to say it again. I'm not coming here to start no trouble. I'm just coming here to work every day and hopefully win."

Moss, who arrived in town Sunday, is in a much different situation in Tennessee. The Titans (5-3) are tied atop the AFC South, and Fisher is giving Moss a fresh start in Tennessee. That pass play in New England where Moss has been accused of not running while drawing a pass interference call? Fisher said receivers sometimes lose the flight of the ball.



AP

Tennessee Titans wide receiver Randy Moss runs during NFL football practice on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, in Nashville, Tenn.

"He's automatically guilty because it's a lack of effort," Fisher said of Moss. "He's going to work out. He's working hard out there. I expect him to play hard in the ballgame."

Fisher said Moss will play Sunday against Miami (4-4) and is listed as a starter. Fisher noted Moss participated in most of the offense at practice Wednesday.

One reason Moss might be enjoying himself is the Titans also like to have a little bit of fun while they work.

They had rookie safety Robert Johnson put on Moss' No. 84 jersey and run onto the practice field with TV cameras and photographers shooting away, thinking it was the star receiver. Moss jogged out a few minutes later, pulling his helmet on with his usual red gloves instead of the blue Johnson wore.

"I think some of the veteran DBs put him up to it," Fisher said. "It was a good imitation. He just had the wrong colored gloves."

Moss has immediately impressed his latest teammates. Kenny Britt, who will miss Sunday's game at Miami, wants to learn how Moss catches go routes with his hands while the other receivers struggle to pull them into their bodies.

"He made it so easy," Britt said.

Moss caught balls mostly from backup Kerry Collins, a teammate for a year when both were in Oakland. Young watched practice with his sprained left ankle, but Fisher said they hope Young is back on the field Thursday.

The Titans only hope Moss debuts just as he has in each of his previous first games with a new team. He has scored at least one touchdown and is averaging 122 yards.

Collins said the Titans are seeing the great attitude and work ethic Moss brings along with his desire to win. That ratchets up the expectations across the board.

"We all should raise the bar just a little higher with him here," Collins said. "He's a dynamic player. He can be a game changer and be the kind of guy that can turn the game on one play."

Favre: Foot feels 'OK,' arm 'a little more alive'

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—And on Wednesday, Brett Favre rested. Again. And the Chicago Bears might want to take note.

Favre's career-high 446 yards passing last Sunday led Minnesota to a season-salvaging overtime victory over the Cardinals, and some Vikings said afterward they saw a difference in their 41-year-old quarterback.

"This week I've seen in Brett what I haven't seen since last year, when it comes to energy that comes across from him," tight end Visanthe Shiancoe said then. "It definitely showed."

Asked Wednesday whether he felt more energy in the run-up to the Arizona game, well, Favre shrugged the question off like he was sidestepping a pass rush.

"Say we lost in OT, I doubt he says that," Favre said, referring to Shiancoe's assessment.

But then, as if he had finished checking his receivers and just fired the ball to the open man, Favre offered his acknowledgment that taking the previous Wednesday's practice off might have provided him some extra freshness.

"That was the hope. I felt like going in, the few days that I did practice, my arm felt a little more alive. I had a little more pep in my step," Favre said, before beginning to back off a bit. "I don't know. I kind of felt that same I did the previous week."

However he feels minute to minute, Favre rested again Wednesday. He said he was fatigued during that comeback against the Cardinals. And discussing the left foot that still has two small fractures in it, Favre said he's still surprised it's not giving him more trouble.

"It's OK. Of course, after a game it always feels worse. It's still swollen, but at least I'm able to function enough on it that Monday and Tuesday and maybe Wednesday I try to stay off of it as much as possible," Favre said. "Get it back to where it feels tolerable. I'm surprised with a broken foot that it doesn't feel as bad as it probably should."

As Favre goes, so go the Vikings—and maybe the grim days have passed.

With all the hubbub over coach Brad Childress's job security and standing in the locker room after his decision to dump Randy Moss, Favre has recently flown under the radar—a rarity for the guy who has made constant headlines again this fall for his age, his injuries and the alleged inappropriate messages sent to a former New York Jets employee two years ago.

Over the last week or so, Favre has seemed as loose as he's been during this so-far tense and trying season. While backup quarterback Tarvaris Jackson took questions in the locker room last Wednesday about his relief appearance in the New England game, Favre sneaked into the pack and posed as a reporter to ask, "How'd your hamstring feel on that long scramble?"

Favre walked away with a kid's grin on his face.

The grin returned last Sunday after the Vikings (3-5) pulled out a much-needed victory headed into Sunday's game against the Bears (5-3).

"I'm optimistic that we can build off of it. Don't expect 400 yards every week, but a lot of guys had their hand in our success. That's a good thing," Favre said.

Before practice, he talked about his comfort level with the hurry-up offense that helped spur the Vikings to victory. The menu of plays is reduced in those situations, and the quarterback has more control over what to run.

Just the way Favre likes it.

"We always think that the plays we call would be better, just like people sitting at home," Favre said.

The less-is-more approach can certainly be helpful in a league that can sometimes seem over-coached.

"If you're running one route and one route and route over and over and over again, you would think that it would be hard to screw it up," Favre said, adding: "I think that's why over the years I've been fairly successful in that type of offense. ... There's just this comfort level of I don't have to worry where guys are lining up."

Childress, whose occasional clashes with Favre over the offense have become national news and weekly water-cooler fodder, was pleased by the result and expressed confidence in the 20-year veteran's familiarity with the no-huddle approach.

"I just thought he was very alive with his arm and what he was doing with the football last week, how he was stroking it around and really banging the receivers with the football," Childress said. "That's all of them, all of the guys that practiced."

As for Favre's energy level, Childress singled out last Thursday as a day when he was "probably the 'livest' he's been."

And maybe the Vikings are alive as well.

Jazz comeback from 18 down, stun Magic

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Utah Jazz rallied again, coming back from a double-digit deficit for the second night in a row.

Deron Williams scored 30 points, Paul Millsap added 23 points and the Jazz beat the Orlando Magic 104-94 Wednesday night.

A night after a 22-point comeback victory in overtime at Miami, the Jazz went down 18 points in the third quarter but came back to stun Orlando. Al Jefferson had a huge hook over Dwight Howard, and Williams followed with a jumper over Nelson with 46.5 seconds remaining to give Utah an 8-point lead and cap the comeback.

So what's the key for the Jazz?

"I guess, getting behind," Millsap joked. "I guess that's what it takes to show all our talents."

Vince Carter had 20 points and Nelson returned from a sprained left ankle to score 19 points for the Magic, who had their four-game winning streak snapped and lost for the first time in the new Amway Center.

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy called it a "disturbing loss" with 21 turnovers that had similar trends to an 18-point lead they blew against Charlotte last week. Although Orlando won that game, Van Gundy didn't think his teamed learn anything from it.

"Ridiculous professional basketball," he said.

The Jazz's furious rally was highlighted with a 24-2 run between the third and fourth quarters. Andrei Kirilenko and Williams each hit a pair of 3-pointers during the spurt to give them an 80-76 lead.

The Jazz also rallied from 18 points down to beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday night, before they dug out of a 22-point hole to stun LeBron James and the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

"It's tough to do," Williams said. "It just happened for us two night in a row. So consider us lucky."

But Utah always seems to start slow.

After hanging tough with the Magic for most of the first quarter, the Jazz started to resemble a tired team coming off a tough overtime win a night earlier. They were slow getting back defensively and poor passing led to a bundle of turnovers.

Once again, it seemed over against one of the Eastern Conference elite teams.

"Improbable? We're supposed to be able to play," Jazz coach Jerry Sloan said of winning at Miami and Orlando on consecutive nights. "It wasn't probably, it was just a matter of trying to come and play and worry about what happened later."

What happened was another slow start with a strong finish.

Carter provided the biggest blow to the momentum Utah was carrying over from Miami with a 3-pointer from 29 feet away at the first quarter buzzer, pumping his right hand in celebration and bringing an otherwise lifeless crowd to its feet. Orlando closed the second quarter on a 13-4 run behind by 3-pointers by Nelson and Rashard Lewis to take a 45-35 lead.

Orlando appeared to have things rolling.

Howard emphatically blocked Williams' layup attempt into the stands for the second time. Brandon Bass took an alley-oop from Nelson for a hard two-hand slam, and an outpouring of 3-pointers put the Magic ahead 74-56 to seemingly put the game out of reach.

But it would all come crashing down.

"You do your work to get a big lead and the question is, 'Can you sustain it?'" Carter said. "They've done a great job in past games of making their come backs and they did it again."



AP

Utah Jazz point guard Deron Williams, left, makes a move around Orlando Magic point guard Jameer Nelson, center, and power forward Brandon Bass, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

Wizards 98, Rockets 91

In Washington, rookie John Wall got his first triple-double with 19 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds to lead Washington over Houston.

Rockets' giant Yao Ming missed most of the game after he strained a tendon in his leg in the first quarter.

Washington used a 10-0 run late in the fourth quarter to pull away after blowing an 11-point lead.

Andray Blatche finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards.

Kevin Martin scored 31 points for the Rockets, who have lost six of seven.

Bobcats 101, Raptors 96

In Toronto, Stephen Jackson scored 20 points to help Charlotte beat Toronto.

Gerald Wallace had 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Bobcats, who ended a three-game losing streak.

Jackson stripped Toronto center Andrea Bargnani with five seconds left and the Bobcats clinging to a three-point edge, then sealed it with a pair of free throws.

Bargnani scored 23 points for the Raptors, who have lost six straight for the first time since a seven-game slide in 2008-09.

Bucks 108, Hawks 91

In Atlanta, Milwaukee extended its offensive awakening with a victory over Atlanta.

The Bucks struggled with their offense early in the season and were last in the league in scoring with only 89.6 points per game before taking a 107-80 win over New York on Tuesday. They were as impressive against the Hawks in taking back-to-back wins for the first time this season.

Corey Maggette scored 20 points and Brandon Jennings added 19 for Milwaukee.

The Hawks have lost three straight, including two at home, after winning their first six.

Warriors 122, Knicks 117

In New York, Golden State improved to its best start in 16 years by downing New York.

David Lee scored a season-high 28 points in his return to New York and Dorell Wright made two huge baskets in the final two minutes as the Warriors made it six wins from eight games to start the new campaign.

Golden State blew a 19-point lead in the second half but were bailed out by Wright, who hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:58 remaining and added an insurance basket a minute later.

Lee grabbed his 10th rebound after Wilson Chandler missed a tying 3-point attempt and sank two clinching free throws with 1.5 seconds left.

Nets 95, Cavaliers 87

In Cleveland, New Jersey ended a run of five straight losses by beating Cleveland.

Devin Harris scored a season-high 31 and Kris Humphries added 13 and 18 rebounds in his first start as the Nets notched their first road win.

New Jersey won despite not having starting forward Troy Murphy and shooting just 19 of 35 from the free-throw line.

J.J. Hickson scored 15 to lead Cleveland, which led by 11 in the third but went faltered late and had its winning streak stopped at three.

The Cavs also lost guard Mo Williams in the third quarter because of a groin strain.

Mavericks 106, Grizzlies 91

In Memphis, Jason Terry scored 25 points to lead Dallas past Memphis.

Terry connected on 11 of 16 shots from the field as the Mavericks completed a run of three wins from their first three road games.

Shawn Marion added 20 points.

Zach Randolph led Memphis with 23 points.

Thunder 109, 76ers 103

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook each scored 31 points and came up with the key late baskets to help Oklahoma City hold off a late Philadelphia charge.

Westbrook had a key layup off an inbound pass with just over 2Ω minutes left to keep Philadelphia from having a shot at the tie, and Durant helped put it away with a three-point play with 44 seconds remaining.

Rookie Jodie Meeks scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter to lead the 76ers' bid to erase an 11-point deficit. The Sixers reached three figure for the fifth straight game for the first time since 2005-06.

Timberwolves 98, Kings 89

In Sacramento, Michael Beasley scored a career-high 42 points and nine rebounds to help Minnesota beat Sacramento, snapping a six-game losing streak.

Beasley made 17 of 31 shots and hit 7 of 10 free throws and surpassed his previous high of 30 points early in the third quarter.

Any win is a big victory for the Timberwolves, who entered the game having dropped 36 of their previous 39 games dating back to last season. Minnesota had lost its previous six road games this season after winning only five away from home a year ago.

Omri Casspi had 17 points for the Kings, who dropped their third straight game.

Spurs 107, Clippers 95

In San Antonio, the hosts won their fifth straight, overcoming an undermanned Los Angeles.

Manu Ginobili and Richard Jefferson scored 22 points apiece for the Spurs, who have won 18 straight against the Clippers.

Los Angeles was without Eric Gordon, Baron Davis and Chris Kaman—three of their four leading scorers—and are off to another horrendous start, falling to 1-8, so far showing no signs of the forecast playoff potential.

Rasual Butler led the Clippers with 18 points.

Autopsy reveals former player Wright shot at least five times

MEMPHIS, Tenn.(AP)—Former NBA player Lorenzen Wright died in late July after being shot at least five times, an autopsy report released Wednesday showed.

Bullet fragments lodged in Wright's skull, chest and right forearm, indicating five shots, the medical examiner's report showed. The report did not exclude the possibility of additional gunshot wounds to the body, which was found in woods in suburban Memphis on July 28.

Wright, 34, had been missing for 10 days when his body was found. No arrests have been made in the months since the slaying, and Memphis police haven't offered a motive or suspects.

The autopsy, first reported by WMC-TV, was conducted by authorities in Shelby County, which includes Memphis. The report said the body was badly decomposed and weighed 57 pounds when discovered. The 6-foot-11 Wright's playing weight was around 225 pounds.

The report does not indicate when Wright was shot or when he had died.

Wright's mother, Deborah Marion, told The Associated Press that she didn't want to see the report.

"I just want to remember him as he was, living in one piece, not shot up," Marion said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Wright, a 6-foot-11 forward-center, played with five teams during his 13-year NBA career. He averaged 8 points and 6.3 rebounds in 779 career NBA games, last playing for Cleveland in the 2008-2009 season.

Wright had been living in Smyrna, Ga., but visited his six children frequently in Memphis and still had close ties to the city. He went to high school in Memphis, attended the University of Memphis and played for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies. The Memphis City Council last month approved a $5,000 reward for information leading to conviction of Wright's killer or killers.

Wright's former wife, Sherra Wright, has told investigators that she last saw her ex-husband on the night of July 18. Hours later, police dispatchers received a 911 call from Wright's cell phone and heard noises like gunshots before the call was dropped.

Marion said she believes her son's body was left in the woods sometime around the time when dispatchers in the Memphis suburb of Germantown received the call early July 19.

Dispatchers said they didn't alert patrol officers or commanders to the call because they couldn't confirm that it came from their jurisdiction. Friends and family of Wright accused authorities of dragging their feet in the days after Wright went missing.

Marion said she hopes for an arrest before the winter holidays.

"I want it solved before Christmas because he has six kids," Marion said. "It would be a great Christmas present for his six kids."

Rolen, Phillips, Arroyo give Reds 3 Gold Gloves

NEW YORK (AP)—The new version of the Big Red Machine plays some pretty slick defense, too.

Cincinnati third baseman Scott Rolen won his eighth Gold Glove on Wednesday, one of three Reds players to be honored following the team's first playoff appearance in 15 years. Second baseman Brandon Phillips and pitcher Bronson Arroyo also were among the National League recipients announced by Rawlings.

It's the first time Cincinnati has had more than one winner in a season since the days of the Big Red Machine, when catcher Johnny Bench, second baseman Joe Morgan, shortstop Dave Concepcion and center fielder Cesar Geronimo won four straight years from 1974-77.

"I think our defense won a lot of games this year," Rolen said.

St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina and Philadelphia outfielder Shane Victorino each garnered their third Gold Glove in a row. Colorado shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and outfielder Carlos Gonzalez joined Arroyo as first-time winners.

"It was definitely a shock," Arroyo said. "Honestly, it never even crossed my mind once throughout my entire career."

Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols won for the second time (2006), and speedy Houston center fielder Michael Bourn was a repeat winner.

"Michael's second Gold Glove comes as no surprise to anyone who has watched him play," Astros general manager Ed Wade said. "You see the ball leave the bat, and you say, 'No way that one gets caught,' and then Michael runs it down. Some guys make plays look tougher than they are. Michael makes the impossible catch look routine. It's nice to see his hard work get recognized."

Phillips also won in 2008 before Orlando Hudson took the NL award at second base last year.

Rolen was selected for the first time since 2006. His eight Gold Gloves rank third at his position behind Hall of Famers Brooks Robinson (16) and Mike Schmidt (10).

On a conference call with all three Reds winners, the 35-year-old Rolen joked that he and general manager Walt Jocketty had already discussed a six-to-eight-year contract extension for "unlimited dollars" so he could chase Schmidt and Robinson.



AP

In this combo of 2010 file photos, the 2010 National League Gold Glove winners are shown. They are, top row from left, Cincinnati Reds pitcher Bronson Arroyo, Houston Astros outfielder Michael Bourn, and Colorado Rockies outfielder Carlos Gonzalez; middle row from left, St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina, Reds second baseman Brandon Phillips, and Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols; bottom row from left, Reds third baseman Scott Rolen, Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, and Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Shane Victorino.

"I think Mike Schmidt was the best third baseman to ever play the game," Rolen said. "To be with those guys obviously is an amazing compliment."

Cincinnati tied for the major league lead with a club-record .988 fielding percentage, a big reason the resurgent Reds won the NL Central before losing to Philadelphia in a first-round playoff sweep. They committed only 72 errors, 17 fewer than the previous team record set last year.

"Having a great defensive infield is such a bonus," Arroyo said. "To have the year that we had defensively definitely contributed to us making the playoffs."

Rolen thinks other Cincinnati players such as first baseman Joey Votto, a leading contender for NL MVP this year, and outfielders Jay Bruce and Drew Stubbs could be future Gold Glove winners, too.

"As we put this team together," Jocketty said, "one of the things that we emphasized was improving our defense.

"We are very pleased and also very proud of these guys," he added. "I think it's a great accomplishment for our organization and these guys in particular."

By winning, Phillips receives a $250,000 increase in his salary next year to $11.25 million. Molina, Pujols, Rolen and Victorino each get $50,000 bonuses, and Bourn and Tulowitzki receive $25,000 apiece.

"It's an honor to be recognized by the managers and coaches as one of the top defensive players in the league along with all the other deserving candidates," Victorino said in a Phillies statement. "I take a lot of pride in my defense and this award means a lot to me."

Molina, who threw out 44 percent of opposing basestealers, joined Mike Matheny (2000, 2003-04) and Tom Pagnozzi (1991-92, 1994) as Cardinals catchers to win three times.

Rawlings has awarded Gold Gloves since 1957. Managers and coaches vote for players in their leagues before the end of the regular season, but they can't choose members of their own teams.

The AL awards were announced Tuesday, with three New York Yankees infielders honored.

Raymond finishes 20th overall in 24th AIBC

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Raymond Zapanta finished 20th overall out of a field of 56 in the 24th Annual Asian Intercity Bowling Championships held from Nov. 6 to 8 at the Pearl Bowling Center in Pasay City, Philippines.

Zapanta's 1,219 singles score, 1240 doubles score, and 1,113 team score calculated into an all events series total score of 3,572, which averaged out to 198.44 per game. Some 540 pins ahead of Zapanta was tournament winner Choi Suk-Byung of Daegu, who finished with a 4,112 series total and a 228.44 per game average.

Other Saipan bowlers that saw action in the tourney include place Zapanta's older Ruselle, who finished 25th; Simon Manacop, who came in 33rd; Zapanta's youngest brother Raphael, 42nd; Percy Omechelang, 46th; and Jorge Soledad, 54th.

Ruselle Zapanta tallied a 3,454 total series and a 191.89 average, Mancop totaled a 3,377 overall series for a 187.61 average, Raphael Zapanta turned in a 3,295 total series and a 1873.06 average, Omechelang a 3,226 series total and 179.22 average, and Soledad ended up with a 2,934 total series with an even 163 per game average.

The Saipan team was managed by Saipan Bowling Association official Ross Zapanta, the father of the Zapanta brothers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan Team that competed in the 24th Annual Asian Intercity Bowling Championships in Pasay City, Philippines pose for a group photo. From left, Saipan team manager Ross Zapanta and bowlers Percy Omechelang, Raymond Zapanta, Russelle Zapanta, Simon Manacop, Raphael Zapanta, and Jorge Soledad.

MARGARITO

From Page 36

middleweight title bout during a news conference Wednesday at Cowboys Stadium, Garcia first apologized for the video.

"This was nothing to do with the disease that Freddie Roach has. We know it's something that we don't wish nobody," Garcia said Wednesday. "It's something personal, something between Team Pacquiao and Team Margarito. I just wanted to make that clear."

When Roach was at the podium a few minutes later, he didn't acknowledge what Garcia said or even refer to the video. After the formal program was completed, though, Roach said he wasn't buying Garcia's apology.

In the video, Margarito makes a twisted face and raises a shaking hand for the camera before it pans to Rios, who also makes faces and stutters while saying Pacquiao's name.

The video has since been edited to remove Rios and make it appear as though Margarito is doing a scared impression of Roach, who has routinely questioned Margarito's integrity following the hand-wrapping scandal nearly two years ago.

Garcia also takes part in the mockery by holding up a thick chunk of metal and telling Roach he'd better watch as Margarito's hands are wrapped so that it doesn't end up under the tape.

"They're so disrespectful to me and the hand pad issues. ... It's like a slap in the face, like 'we got caught with something, but we're still here fighting. ' I think it shows his true character. I don't think they are a good group of people," Roach said. "I'm not going to bother Manny Pacquiao with that. Manny doesn't hate anybody and so forth, but I do hate those guys."

Pacquiao said he hadn't seen the video.

Roach does plan to make sure Margarito is being watched when his hands are wrapped before Saturday night's bout. That's not a joke.

"I will watch him. I asked the (Texas) commission to have a person from my camp in their training room from start to finish, and they can do the same with me," Roach said, adding that his request was approved. "I don't trust those guys. He'll do anything to win. He's done it before. He's a cheater."

The bout will be Pacquiao's second at Cowboys Stadium, where more than 50,000 fans are expected to attend along with an expected pay-per-view audience of 1 million or more.

In March at the $1.2 billion showplace, Pacquiao dominated Joshua Clottey from the opening bell to retain his welterweight title with an unanimous decision.

Pacquiao has since been elected a congressman in his native Philippines, a job that initially seemed to be affecting his training for this fight. He even missed a day of workouts.

"Everything is back to normal," Roach said, declaring Pacquiao ready for the fight. "It was never physical. It was all mental. His mental focus wasn't there."

Margarito, the former welterweight champion, was approved to fight in Texas after being denied a license in California and having another application in Nevada tabled.

Promoter Bob Arum again Wednesday applauded the decision by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and defended Margarito. Both Pacquiao and Margarito fight under Arum's Top Rank banner.

"When other people in boxing, some other commissions feasted on innuendoes, lies and smears, this commission read the record, read every scrap from the California hearing to the appeals," Arum said. "For 18 months (Margarito) has gone through hell, but he's taken it like a man, he's accepted it and believe me on Saturday night he will give you the fight of his life."

Margarito hasn't fought in the United States since January 2009, when a plaster-like substance was found in his hand wraps before a fight against Shane Mosley in Los Angeles.

Margarito's license along with that of his former trainer, Javier Capetillo, were revoked for at least one year by the California State Athletic Commission, a decision that was upheld by other states.

Margarito has repeatedly said he wasn't aware of the substance found in his hand wraps.

"I wrap guys every day," Roach said. "Believe me, if I put a rock in their hand, they would know it."

In his only fight since, Margarito won an unanimous decision over Roberto Garcia in Mexico in May.

While Garcia acknowledged that they were making fun of Roach in the video, he insisted that Rios didn't even know about the Parkinson's disease that affects Pacquiao's trainer. Garcia said the video was made about five weeks ago.

G-STARS

From Page 36

The G-Stars broke away after the break as Rollers C's offense ran into a stall. Jacob Palacios delivered eight points for the G-Stars in the third quarter to match Rollers C's team effort.

Rollers C trailed by 12 points, 37-49, heading into the final period and tried to mount a comeback, but ran out of time. The G-Stars were held to only 10 points in the fourth quarter, but they hung on to take the win.

Eddie Manalili led the G-Stars with 14 points, while Rollers C's Francisco scored a game-high 17 in the loss.

The Sparks, meanwhile, were issued a win over Hi-5 due to forfeit in Wednesday's first scheduled matchup, while Agape Saina was awarded its first win of the season, out of eight games, via forfeit by the Saints last Tuesday, Nov. 9.

The Sparks now have a 6-1 record, second to the 8-1 Sonics in the U19 standings. The Saints' card fell to 1-3 and they have now lost three in a row after winning their opener. Hi-5's record dropped to 2-5.

Hi-5 is set to face Rollers B in the 5:30pm first game of the Rotary caging on Monday, Nov. 15. It will be followed by the 7pm match between G-Stars and Agape Saina.

G-Stars 59 – Manalili 14, De Vero 10, Palacios 10, Rabauliman 8, Benavente 4, Jung 4, Kenty 4, Bicera 2, Concepcion 2, Byun 1.

Rollers C 53 – Francisco 17, Yap 8, Iglesias 8, Diaz 6, Teregeyo 6, P Norita 4, Lee 2, Rangamar 2, Utz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 31-29, 49-37, 59-53.

RECOLLECTIONS

From Page 36

would face death from a knife-wielding drunk but that's a different story).

My grandfather, who was my first throwing partner and as a schoolboy kept a record journal of the 1906 Chicago Cubs that I saw, had scrimped to buy me a Rawlings Clete Boyer model glove. He rubbed neatsfoot oil all over it, put in three baseballs, tied it up tight with twine and kept it that way overnight.

As far as I was concerned, having a cool glove was better than having a cool car.

As much as I treasured the mitt, my shoes were a matter of embarrassment. I was the only player on the team who didn't have real baseball cleats because my mother could not afford it. I wore the same Converse Chuck Taylor canvas shoes than I had worn to school every day for years, the only shoes I had not counting the one pair I had to wear to church Sunday. (The next season she bought me size 13 cleats, explaining that they could last me through high school as she couldn't afford to buy me new cleats every year. For the record, my feet never got bigger than 11. People would look my shoes and say things like, "Boy, you got big feet." I never told them I put socks in the toes of the shoes. If I had been like I am now, I would have said with conviction, "You have no idea what you're talking about".)

Because of my flat rubber soles on the red Florida clay, I slipped and slid around the bases so much that one guy who saw me came up with the idea of Slip'n'Slide, sold it to Wham-O and made a fortune while I never even made it to third base.

I am fully convinced that the wacky main character of The Bad News Bears, alcoholic manager Morris Buttermaker, was based on our red-nosed red-eyed coach, Norris Butterkiller. He put me at second base probably because of the rule where the smallest kid on the team must play second base.

Our first game was against perennial powerhouse People's Bank. The first time I batted, our manager told me just to stand there and take a walk. Even then, I understood the strategy.

Their pitcher may have been Nolan Ryan's cousin: 18 years old with a beard and two children. This was before there were birth certificates and investigations.

Maybe because I was staring at the football-sized zit on his nose, I didn't see the first four pitches. They must have been balls because the umpire told me to take first base.

The next time up, coach told me the same thing. Only this time a round heat-seeking missile invisible to 10-year-old eyes drilled my hip like an alien laser. I dropped the bat and bent over before limping to first base. Our coach came out and asked me if I wanted to come out of the game and I couldn't think of anything to say except, "Okay" and trotted head down to the dugout. The next game I lost my starting position.

Even though I came off the bench that season, I did lead the league by getting hit by a pitch six times. Someone told me that may have been a league record.

I got whacked everywhere, including getting my helmet knocked off by a 120-mph fastball. I had so many strawberries on my body that a music group named the Beatles later wrote a song about it called, "Strawberry Fields."

Ah, I can still remember it all clearly now.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	2	.750	–
New Jersey	3	5	.375	3
New York	3	5	.375	3
Philadelphia	2	6	.250	4
Toronto	1	7	.125	5

Southeast Division

Orlando	5	2	.714	–
Atlanta	6	3	.667	–
Miami	5	3	.625	1/2
Washington	2	4	.333	2 1/2
Charlotte	2	6	.250	3 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	4	4	.500	–
Chicago	3	3	.500	–
Indiana	3	3	.500	–
Milwaukee	4	5	.444	1/2
Detroit	2	6	.250	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	7	0	1.000	–
San Antonio	6	1	.857	1
Dallas	5	2	.714	2
Memphis	4	5	.444	4
Houston	1	6	.143	6

Northwest Division

Portland	6	3	.667	–
Utah	5	3	.625	1/2
Oklahoma City	4	3	.571	1
Denver	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Minnesota	2	7	.222	4

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	8	0	1.000	–
Golden State	6	2	.750	2
Phoenix	3	4	.429	4 1/2
Sacramento	3	4	.429	4 1/2
L.A. Clippers	1	8	.111	7 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 108, Atlanta 91
Utah 104, Orlando 94
Charlotte 101, Toronto 96
Washington 98, Houston 91
New Jersey 95, Cleveland 87
Golden State 122, New York 117
Dallas 106, Memphis 91
Oklahoma City 109, Philadelphia 103
San Antonio 107, L.A. Clippers 95
Minnesota 98, Sacramento 89

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Ellis, GOL	6	65	31	167	27.8
Durant, OKC	6	54	48	166	27.7
Gay, MEM	7	75	26	190	27.1
Nowitzki, DAL	5	51	26	129	25.8
Rose, CHI	5	48	24	125	25.0
Anthony, DEN	6	56	28	148	24.7
Wade, MIA	7	56	49	169	24.1
Gasol, LAL	7	68	33	169	24.1
Martin, HOU	6	41	44	138	23.0
Bryant, LAL	7	50	51	160	22.9
Evans, SAC	5	45	19	113	22.6
Richardson, PHX	6	53	8	135	22.5
Scola, HOU	6	53	29	135	22.5
Howard, ORL	5	39	34	112	22.4
Granger, IND	5	38	19	107	21.4
Westbrook, OKC	6	39	48	127	21.2
Gordon, LAC	7	53	36	148	21.1
Ginobili, SAN	5	35	22	105	21.0
James, MIA	7	48	41	145	20.7
Johnson, ATL	7	52	30	143	20.4

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Okafor, NOR	28	39	.718
Horford, ATL	51	78	.654
Jefferson, SAN	35	54	.648
Gibson, CHI	34	53	.642
Odom, LAL	47	75	.627
Favors, NJN	23	37	.622
Duncan, SAN	38	62	.613
Millsap, UTA	51	84	.607
Gasol, MEM	26	43	.605
Howard, ORL	39	65	.600

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Noah, CHI	5	22	49	71	14.2
Evans, TOR	6	31	47	78	13.0
Scola, HOU	6	20	54	74	12.3
Love, MIN	7	31	51	82	11.7
Bogut, MIL	6	25	44	69	11.5
Howard, ORL	5	13	44	57	11.4
Lee, GOL	6	26	42	68	11.3
Millsap, UTA	6	18	49	67	11.2
Odom, LAL	7	18	60	78	11.1
Griffin, LAC	7	33	44	77	11.0

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	7	103	14.7
Kidd, DAL	5	54	10.8
Paul, NOR	6	61	10.2
Rose, CHI	5	49	9.8
Wall, WAS	5	48	9.6
Williams, UTA	6	54	9.0
Nash, PHX	6	51	8.5
Parker, SAN	5	42	8.4
Conley, MEM	7	58	8.3
Miller, POR	8	66	8.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Goodwill ping-pong tourney next weekend

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three teams will dispute the championship in the 14th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament, which Saipan will be hosting next week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament, which is held twice a year with Tinian and Saipan alternately hosting the biannual event, is set for Nov. 20 and will also feature a Korean team.

Budhi Gurung of the organizing Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association said seven male players from Korea will join Saipan and Tinian teams in the one-day tournament. Some of them are part of the same team that won the championship in the 13th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament Tinian hosted in March this year. In the Tinian tournament, the Koreans topped both the singles and team events to rule the goodwill meet.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian's Mark Ma serves during last year's goodwill tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Tinian, Saipan, and Korea will compete in another goodwill ping-pong tournament next weekend.

Gurung added a few members of the Korean Ping-pong Association on Saipan will team up with Saipan players.

"We have players who had already left the island so we need players from the Korean Ping-pong Association to form a team and challenge Tinian and Korea," said Gurung, who will be on the Saipan team, joining forces with MATTA president Steve Lim, two officials from KPAS, and two newcomers.

Tinian will have an intact roster composed of Mark Ma, Luke Lu, Charlie Cheng, Su Yong Dong, Robin Lu, Bright Liu, Alfred Yue, and Liang Wei Bin.

Each team will form two groups with three to four players in each group. Teams will play in doubles, singles, and team events. Singles and doubles events will have a knockout format, while team event will be a round-robin affair. Players from the same team are not allowed to play against each other.

"The public is invited to watch the games at the Ada gym for free. We should have set the goodwill games last month, but teams had other commitments, so we decided to move it later this month." Gurung said.

Gurung, Lim, Luke Lu, and Su Yong Dong will be competing in the goodwill tournament two months after they gave the CNMI gold medals from the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau.

All Schools cross country finale this Saturday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI schools will go for all the marbles this Saturday, as Northern Marianas Athletics holds the 2010 All Schools Cross Country Championship at the CPA Field.

The weekend tournament will be a culmination of the cross country season and will have runners in the first three qualifiers competing for the Top 3 honors. Ribbons await top individual finishers, while the Top 3 schools get trophies.

The cross country finale will have competition in five age groups: girls and boys U8, U10, U112, U14, and U18. Student-runners who joined at least one qualifying race will gain entry to the championship for a chance to earn points for their school.

Points will be awarded based on how runners finish in the races, which will be divided into two courses. The short course will be for U8, U10, and U12 divisions and will cover a distance of 1,500m, while the long course will have a distance of 5,000m and is for U14 and U18 participants.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2009 All Schools Cross Country Championship near the finish line of the race held at the CPA Field, which will also be the venue for the 2010 season finale of Northern Marianas Athletics-sanctioned cross country run tomorrow.

Each school is allowed to field as many runners as it can, but only the Top 5 finishers will be counted in the points system. Coaches of each school are advised to tell their runners to come at the venue in proper running attire, as racing barefoot will no longer be allowed.

Registration for the weekend event will start at 3pm, while races will kick off at 4pm.

Favored to top the cross country finale are defending champions Hopwood Junior High School, Saipan Community School, and Marianas High School.

Hopwood gained three championship trophy last year after ruling the girls U14 and U12 and boys U14 divisions. Saipan Community School reigned in the boys' U12 category, while the MHS Dolphins prevailed in the boys U18 age group.

Top 3 finishers in last year's race finale were Felix Palacios, Braylan Floresca, and Charles Ingram in boys U14; Chris Obaldo, Corina Suda, and Janet Jones in girls U14; William Fong, Pedro Tenorio, and Jared Arriola in boys U12; Jo Ann Reyes, Janille Pagsolingan, and Lyndin Johnson in girls U12; Julia Ishikawa, Moena Takagi, and Kentaro Kitagawa in the U10; Michael Mancao, Danny Bai, and James Castro in the boys U18; and Jeralyn Castillo, Madi Onni, and Rikka Kaiyo in the girls U18.

November Ace, Turkey Shoot set on Nov. 21

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association November Ace of the Month Tournament will be coupled with the club's annual Turkey Shoot on Nov. 21 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Show time is set for 11:30am with a 12:30pm tee off. There is a $30 green fee, but the $15 pot fee is waived for this event as a gesture of appreciation to the members.

First place and Ace of the Month will receive a $300 cash prize and a turkey. Second place will be awarded $200, third place $100 and second to last place will receive $50.

A closest to the pin contest will also be held on each par 3 hole with $50 cash and a turkey to go to the winners.

Following the event, a dinner reception will be held at Aqua Resort Club's Rey Lounge where prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners.

Also at the dinner, trophies will be presented to all of this season's Monthly Aces, new 2011 Fil-Taga officers and board members will also be elected, and a raffle drawing will be held for only $1 per ticket. All members are invited to the dinner and guests are welcome for $20 per person.

CWGA monthly tourney tomorrow

The CNMI Women's Golf Association, meanwhile, will hold its monthly tournament tomorrow, Nov. 13, at the Lalao Bay Golf Resort's east course. Showtime for the ladies tournament will be at noon with tee off to begin at 1pm.

Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic tees off tomorrow

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

All systems go for the 15th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic that will be held tomorrow, Nov. 13, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

Entrance fees are set at $95 for Hyatt members and $110 per player for non-members. Registration on the morning of the tournament starts from 6:30am to 7:25am with a shotgun start beginning at 7:30am. The tournament will take on a four-person scramble format and use a double peoria handicap system. Players may sign up individually and be randomly assigned to a team or enter as their own foursome group.

The scramble will employ a best ball style of play where after each shot, the team will decide which of the four balls they wish to play.

In addition to a multitude of raffle prizes, $15,000 from IP&E and brand new cars from Toyota Microl and Triple J Motors are also up for grabs if players manage a hole-in-one shot on the designated holes. In-kind prizes instead of cash prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 placers, as proceeds from the event will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

For an additional $20 donation, teams can also purchase "one kick" and "one throw" that they can use during the round. Other fun activities include longest drive, blindfolded drives, and more. An awards banquet and gala dinner will take place following the tournament at the Hyatt at 6:30pm. Guests are welcome for and additional $35 per person.

Application forms can be obtained at Club Elan, the Hyatt front desk or at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Interested sponsors and players may contact Club at the Hyatt's Yulia Camacho at 323-5870, Robin Eugenio of Club Elan at 323-5827, or email cath@hyattsaipan.com.

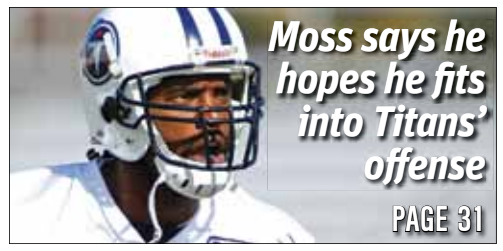


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, right, shakes hands with IP&E general manager Jeff Boyer after the latter agreed to sponsor a $15,000 hole-in-one challenge in tomorrow's 15th Annual Club at the Hyatt Classic.



Saipan Tribune
Sports



G-Stars edge Rollers C in Rotary



By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The G-Stars outlasted Rollers C, 59-53, in the second game of last Wednesday's U19 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win improved the G-Stars' win-loss card to 2-3, while the loss dropped Rollers C's record to 2-7.

Rollers C came out swinging and took a one-point lead, 17-16, in the opening period. Ralph Francisco led the charge for Rollers C with 13 points.

The G-Stars regrouped in the second quarter and managed a one-basket advantage, 31-29, at halftime. Christian De Vero led the G-Stars with six markers in the quarter.

See G-STARS on Page 34

The G-Stars' Eddie Manalili puts back a missed shot in their Rotary caging game against Rollers C Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. WALTER SUTHERLAND

Tsunami Saipan still aims for 100th record



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura, seen here in the 100m breaststroke event during last Saturday's all schools meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, will try to post the club's 100th record in a tournament next month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The race for Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's 100th record is still on, as the club's swimmers fell short in the ultimate challenge last weekend during the 2010 SSC All Schools Swimming Championship at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan was formed in 2005 and since then had its swimmers either resetting or making new records 99 times. This feat prompted the club to issue a challenge to its swimmers, as Tsunami Saipan said it will give a commemorative plaque to the swimmer who will mark the 100th record.

Four Tsunami Saipan bets tried to pass the challenge, but failed with Ryuto Yanai the closest swimmer to make a new record. The 7-year-old swimmer timed in at 37.81 seconds in the 50m freestyle event, only .34 second behind the current record of older brother Hiroto Yanai (37.47/April 4, 2004).

Lukas Kang, another 7-year-old swimmer, also faltered in his bid to make it to the record books when he submitted 43.69 seconds in the 50m butterfly. The current record is 43.06 seconds posted by Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru on May 30, 2009.

Angel Marie Tan missed the 50m butterfly record in the girls' 11 to 12 age group by more than a second after clocking in at 35.72 seconds. Amanda Johnson owns the 50m butterfly record in the 11 to 12 age group after timing in at 34.48 seconds on March28, 2004.

Kensuke Kimura attempted twice to record Tsunami Saipan's 100th mark, but muffed both chances. The Grace Christian Academy student submitted 2:27.90 in the 200m individual medley, less than a second behind the 13 to 14 age group record of 2:26.46 Joshua Taitano logged on August 19, 1995.

In the 100m breaststroke event, the 14-year-old Kimura was more than a second short of the 1.55:77 mark Kai Staal posted on Feb. 6, 2009. Kimura timed in at 1:17.51 during the 100m breaststroke race last Saturday.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said his swimmers still have a chance for the commemorative plaque next month when the club hosts a meet.

"Tsunami Saipan plans a meet on Dec. 4 and we are looking to make our 100th record then," Kimura said.

Margarito makes fun of Pacquiao trainer in video

STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Antonio Margarito has repeatedly said he is sorry for a hand-wrapping scandal that almost ended his boxing career. Now his camp has had to apologize again, for something else only days before getting into the ring against Manny Pacquiao.

A video interview posted by Elie Seckbach of FanHouse recently raced across the Internet, in which Margarito and Brandon Rios—both of whom are trained by Robert Garcia—appear to mock the Parkinson's disease of Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach.

Before even talking about the junior

See MARGARITO on Page 34



AP

Robert Garcia, right, trainer for Antonio Margarito, explains a recently released video as Manny Pacquiao, center, and his trainer Freedie Roach, left, listen during a news conference Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, in Arlington, Texas.

Recollections

Ah, the crack of the bat and the pop of the mitt. Youth teams are practicing now for a new season. Little League is a rite of passage. A few dozen boys and a sprinkle of girls on Saipan will soon play organized baseball for the first time of their lives. I remember my first year.

As soon as I reached the minimum age to play, I signed up and attended the tryout in the city park in the shadow of our high school football stadium out on the north side of town where my family never ventured as Lakeland, Florida was quite segregated at the time. Even by the age of 10, I had never gone up there except a few times and only on the way to somewhere else. Everything was new and fresh for this bug-eyed boy.

Coaches from all the teams evaluated the players and later drafted their teams. Probably because no kid could go undrafted, I was selected by Wellman-Lord, a phosphate mine (where years later I

See RECOLLECTIONS on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2